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Employment declined by 61,000 in March, all in full-time work. This decrease pushed the unemployment rate up 0.3 percentage points to 8.0%, the highest rate in seven years.

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Merchandise exports and imports both advanced in February following three months of rapid declines. Exports rose 5.2% to \$33.1 billion as all sectors increased and auto makers resumed production. Meanwhile, imports increased 1.1% to \$33.0 billion led by machinery and equipment.

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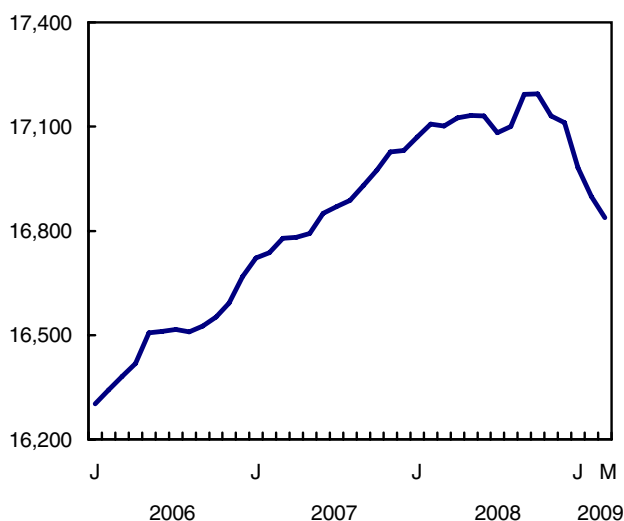
Labour Force Survey

March 2009

Employment declined by 61,000 in March, all in full-time work. This decrease pushed the unemployment rate up 0.3 percentage points to 8.0%, the highest rate in seven years.

Employment

thousands



Since peaking in October 2008, employment has fallen each month, with net losses totalling 357,000 (-2.1%). In percentage terms, this is the largest decline over a five-month period since the 1982 recession.

Since October, full-time employment has declined by 2.8% (-387,000) while part-time has edged up 0.9% (+30,000).

Losses in March were widespread across a number of industries, most notably in manufacturing; finance, insurance, real estate and leasing; construction; and natural resources. These losses were only partially offset by gains in "other services"; and business, building and other support services.

Employment fell in several provinces in March, with the largest declines in British Columbia (-23,000),

Note to readers

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates are based on a sample, and are therefore subject to sampling variability. Estimates for smaller geographic areas or industries will have more variability. For an explanation of sampling variability of estimates, and how to use standard errors to assess this variability, consult the "Data quality" section of the publication Labour Force Information (71-001-XWE, free).

Changes in average hourly wages are affected by shifts in the composition of the Canadian labour force. For example, a drop in employment in low-wage occupations or industries will contribute to an increase in the national average hourly wage.

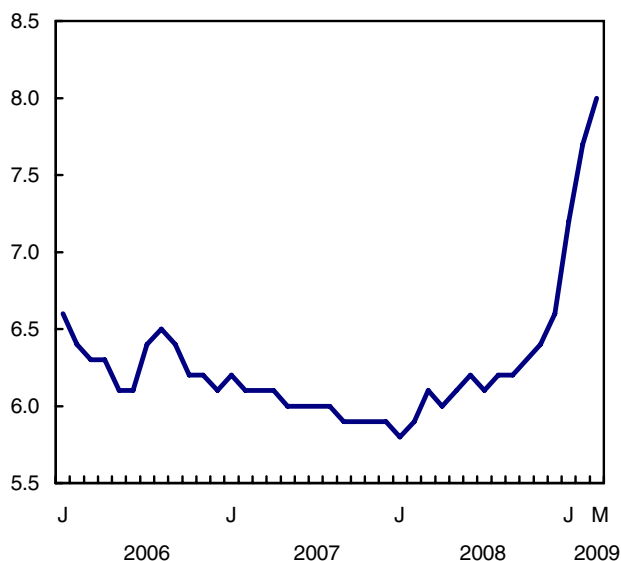
Alberta (-15,000) and Ontario (-11,000). Since October, these three provinces also had the fastest rate of employment decreases.

March's employment losses were spread among core-aged men (25 to 54), youths (15 to 24), and women 55 and over. Since the start of the downturn in October, employment has fallen by 3.1% for core-aged men, the largest five-month loss in 33 years.

In March, the increase in average hourly wages was 4.3% compared with 12 months earlier.

Unemployment rate

%



Manufacturing continues to lose ground

Employment declines were concentrated in the goods-producing sector in March, with large losses in manufacturing, construction and natural resources.

Employment in manufacturing fell by 34,000 in March. Of the major industry groups, manufacturing has lost the most workers since October (-134,000, or -6.8%). These losses were concentrated in the manufacturing of fabricated and primary metal; motor vehicle, body, and parts; and wood products.

Construction employment also declined in March, down 18,000, the third notable decrease in four months. In percentage terms, this industry had the fastest employment growth from January to October 2008, and has since experienced the steepest decline. Employment in this industry has decreased by 99,000 (-7.9%) since October 2008, led by losses in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. These provinces also had the largest drops in both housing starts and building permits in the most recent year-over-year estimates.

For the second month in a row, employment in natural resources declined, down 11,000 in March. This was led by losses in Alberta, mostly in mining, oil and gas extraction.

In the services sector, employment in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing fell by 20,000 in March. Another service industry posting a drop was accommodation and food services (-15,000). These declines were offset by increases in "other services" (+23,000) and business, building and other support services (+13,000) in March.

In March, all of the employment losses were among private sector employees (-68,000). Since October, employment among private (-2.5%) and public sector employees (-2.3%) has contracted, while self-employment has changed little (-0.1%).

Employment down in several provinces

British Columbia's employment fell by 23,000 in March. This brings total employment losses to 69,000 (-3.0%) since October 2008, largely driven by decreases in construction and manufacturing. Over the same period, British Columbia has seen its unemployment rate climb 2.2 percentage points to 7.4% in March.

Following a large decline in February, employment in Alberta fell a further 15,000 in March, pushing the unemployment rate up to 5.8%. Since October, employment losses have totalled 48,000 (-2.4%), mainly in the goods-producing sector.

Manitoba's employment also fell in March (-4,000), bringing the unemployment rate up 0.3 percentage points to 5.1%.

In March, employment in Saskatchewan declined by 3,000. Despite the loss in March, employment in this province is unchanged compared with October 2008. The unemployment rate, at 4.7% in March, has increased by 0.8 percentage points since October.

Despite increases in their unemployment rates, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta continue to have the lowest unemployment rates in the country.

Employment in Ontario edged down by 11,000 in March. Since October, declines have totalled 171,000 (-2.5%), mostly in full-time work. Although the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 8.7% in March, it has risen 2.0 percentage points since October, an increase similar to that of British Columbia and Alberta.

In Quebec, although employment was little changed in March, the unemployment rate increased 0.4 percentage points to 8.3%, as more people entered the labour market. Employment has decreased by 55,000 (-1.4%) since October, and the unemployment rate has increased by 1.1 percentage points.

The only other province with a notable employment decline in March was Nova Scotia, down 3,000.

Losses persist among men aged 25 to 54 and youths

In March, employment fell by 26,000 among men aged 25 to 54, while their unemployment rate increased 0.4 percentage points, to 7.7%. Since the start of the downturn in October, the unemployment rate for this group has increased by 2.2 percentage points, while employment has declined by 197,000, the largest five-month loss in 33 years. In contrast, there have been fewer employment losses (-39,000) among women aged 25 to 54 years since October, and their unemployment rate has increased by 1.0 percentage point, to 5.7%.

Young people aged 15 to 24 years also experienced employment losses in March (-19,000). This pushed their unemployment rate up to 14.8%, the highest in 11 years. Since October, employment for this age group has declined by 122,000 and their unemployment rate has increased by 2.6 percentage points.

Following an increase in February, employment fell by 13,000 for women aged 55 and over in March. This has been the only demographic group posting an employment increase (+9,000) since the slowdown began in October 2008.

Available on CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0064 and 282-0069 to 282-0099.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information* (71-001-XWE, free), is now available online for the week ending March 21. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *All subjects*, choose *Labour*. LAN and bulk prices are available on request. The CD-ROM *Labour Force Historical Review*, 2008 (71F0004XCB, \$209), is now available. See *How to order products*.

Data tables are also now available online. From the *By subject* module of our website, choose *Labour*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on May 8.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact, Danielle Zietsma (613-951-4243; danielle.zietsma@statcan.gc.ca) or Jeannine Usalcas (613-951-4720; jeannine.usalcas@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

□

Labour force characteristics by age and sex

	February 2009	March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Both sexes 15+						
Population	27,161.2	27,187.6	26.4	384.2	0.1	1.4
Labour force	18,315.2	18,294.7	-20.5	90.1	-0.1	0.5
Employment	16,899.4	16,838.1	-61.3	-264.0	-0.4	-1.5
Full-time	13,696.9	13,617.4	-79.5	-373.7	-0.6	-2.7
Part-time	3,202.5	3,220.7	18.2	109.7	0.6	3.5
Unemployment	1,415.9	1,456.6	40.7	354.1	2.9	32.1
Participation rate	67.4	67.3	-0.1	-0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.7	8.0	0.3	1.9	...	...
Employment rate	62.2	61.9	-0.3	-1.9	...	...
Part-time rate	19.0	19.1	0.1	0.9	...	...
Youths 15 to 24						
Population	4,387.4	4,388.8	1.4	19.0	0.0	0.4
Labour force	2,911.8	2,909.0	-2.8	-32.1	-0.1	-1.1
Employment	2,496.9	2,478.3	-18.6	-138.8	-0.7	-5.3
Full-time	1,360.7	1,337.1	-23.6	-105.7	-1.7	-7.3
Part-time	1,136.2	1,141.2	5.0	-33.0	0.4	-2.8
Unemployment	414.9	430.6	15.7	106.6	3.8	32.9
Participation rate	66.4	66.3	-0.1	-1.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	14.2	14.8	0.6	3.8	...	...
Employment rate	56.9	56.5	-0.4	-3.4	...	...
Part-time rate	45.5	46.0	0.5	1.1	...	...
Men 25+						
Population	11,132.7	11,145.1	12.4	183.6	0.1	1.7
Labour force	8,158.7	8,146.1	-12.6	2.7	-0.2	0.0
Employment	7,563.0	7,535.4	-27.6	-179.6	-0.4	-2.3
Full-time	6,986.1	6,957.4	-28.7	-259.4	-0.4	-3.6
Part-time	576.9	577.9	1.0	79.6	0.2	16.0
Unemployment	595.7	610.7	15.0	182.3	2.5	42.6
Participation rate	73.3	73.1	-0.2	-1.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.3	7.5	0.2	2.2	...	...
Employment rate	67.9	67.6	-0.3	-2.8	...	...
Part-time rate	7.6	7.7	0.1	1.2	...	...
Women 25+						
Population	11,641.1	11,653.6	12.5	181.5	0.1	1.6
Labour force	7,244.7	7,239.6	-5.1	119.6	-0.1	1.7
Employment	6,839.5	6,824.4	-15.1	54.4	-0.2	0.8
Full-time	5,350.1	5,322.9	-27.2	-8.6	-0.5	-0.2
Part-time	1,489.4	1,501.5	12.1	63.0	0.8	4.4
Unemployment	405.2	415.2	10.0	65.1	2.5	18.6
Participation rate	62.2	62.1	-0.1	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.6	5.7	0.1	0.8	...	...
Employment rate	58.8	58.6	-0.2	-0.4	...	...
Part-time rate	21.8	22.0	0.2	0.8	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS)¹

	February 2009	March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker						
Employees	14,254.7	14,188.3	-66.4	-302.4	-0.5	-2.1
Self-employed	2,644.6	2,649.8	5.2	38.4	0.2	1.5
Public/private sector employees						
Public	3,380.5	3,381.8	1.3	-27.6	0.0	-0.8
Private	10,874.3	10,806.5	-67.8	-274.8	-0.6	-2.5
All industries	16,899.4	16,838.1	-61.3	-264.0	-0.4	-1.5
Goods-producing sector	3,845.3	3,782.7	-62.6	-226.8	-1.6	-5.7
Agriculture	324.5	319.3	-5.2	-16.8	-1.6	-5.0
Natural resources	333.4	322.9	-10.5	-15.2	-3.1	-4.5
Utilities	143.1	148.7	5.6	-2.2	3.9	-1.5
Construction	1,169.9	1,151.7	-18.2	-64.8	-1.6	-5.3
Manufacturing	1,874.3	1,840.1	-34.2	-127.8	-1.8	-6.5
Service-producing sector	13,054.1	13,055.4	1.3	-37.2	0.0	-0.3
Trade	2,635.9	2,629.9	-6.0	-61.1	-0.2	-2.3
Transportation and warehousing	841.0	843.1	2.1	-18.7	0.2	-2.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,094.7	1,074.9	-19.8	2.0	-1.8	0.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,179.5	1,186.0	6.5	-9.0	0.6	-0.8
Business, building and other support services	657.0	670.4	13.4	-46.1	2.0	-6.4
Educational services	1,163.8	1,173.8	10.0	-16.6	0.9	-1.4
Health care and social assistance	1,955.7	1,952.4	-3.3	71.1	-0.2	3.8
Information, culture and recreation	752.8	747.3	-5.5	-10.7	-0.7	-1.4
Accommodation and food services	1,083.8	1,068.6	-15.2	8.7	-1.4	0.8
Other services	760.2	783.6	23.4	42.2	3.1	5.7
Public administration	929.6	925.4	-4.2	0.8	-0.5	0.1

1. North American Industrial Classification System.

Note: Related to CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089.

Labour force characteristics by province

	February 2009	March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Population	427.9	428.0	0.1	2.6	0.0	0.6
Labour force	253.3	254.3	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.4
Employment	215.0	217.0	2.0	-4.0	0.9	-1.8
Full-time	183.6	185.2	1.6	-2.2	0.9	-1.2
Part-time	31.4	31.8	0.4	-1.8	1.3	-5.4
Unemployment	38.3	37.3	-1.0	5.1	-2.6	15.8
Participation rate	59.2	59.4	0.2	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	15.1	14.7	-0.4	2.0	...	...
Employment rate	50.2	50.7	0.5	-1.3	...	...
Prince Edward Island						
Population	115.3	115.4	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.4
Labour force	78.2	77.6	-0.6	-1.7	-0.8	-2.1
Employment	68.6	68.7	0.1	-2.3	0.1	-3.2
Full-time	58.3	58.4	0.1	-0.6	0.2	-1.0
Part-time	10.3	10.3	0.0	-1.7	0.0	-14.2
Unemployment	9.6	8.9	-0.7	0.6	-7.3	7.2
Participation rate	67.8	67.2	-0.6	-2.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	12.3	11.5	-0.8	1.0	...	...
Employment rate	59.5	59.5	0.0	-2.9	...	...
Nova Scotia						
Population	771.4	771.6	0.2	4.6	0.0	0.6
Labour force	500.4	497.7	-2.7	9.9	-0.5	2.0
Employment	456.4	453.4	-3.0	3.6	-0.7	0.8
Full-time	372.3	370.4	-1.9	4.0	-0.5	1.1
Part-time	84.1	82.9	-1.2	-0.5	-1.4	-0.6
Unemployment	44.0	44.3	0.3	6.3	0.7	16.6
Participation rate	64.9	64.5	-0.4	0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.8	8.9	0.1	1.1	...	...
Employment rate	59.2	58.8	-0.4	0.2	...	...
New Brunswick						
Population	620.4	620.5	0.1	3.9	0.0	0.6
Labour force	400.6	403.1	2.5	3.0	0.6	0.7
Employment	365.3	364.7	-0.6	-1.2	-0.2	-0.3
Full-time	310.6	306.0	-4.6	-3.3	-1.5	-1.1
Part-time	54.6	58.7	4.1	2.2	7.5	3.9
Unemployment	35.4	38.4	3.0	4.1	8.5	12.0
Participation rate	64.6	65.0	0.4	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.8	9.5	0.7	0.9	...	...
Employment rate	58.9	58.8	-0.1	-0.5	...	...
Quebec						
Population	6,411.2	6,416.1	4.9	62.6	0.1	1.0
Labour force	4,169.3	4,181.7	12.4	-5.6	0.3	-0.1
Employment	3,840.1	3,835.5	-4.6	-46.3	-0.1	-1.2
Full-time	3,114.2	3,110.2	-4.0	-50.0	-0.1	-1.6
Part-time	725.9	725.2	-0.7	3.6	-0.1	0.5
Unemployment	329.2	346.3	17.1	40.9	5.2	13.4
Participation rate	65.0	65.2	0.2	-0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.9	8.3	0.4	1.0	...	...
Employment rate	59.9	59.8	-0.1	-1.3	...	...

... not applicable

Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Labour force characteristics by province

	February 2009	March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Ontario						
Population	10,604.6	10,614.3	9.7	154.4	0.1	1.5
Labour force	7,185.6	7,168.4	-17.2	29.5	-0.2	0.4
Employment	6,558.9	6,548.1	-10.8	-134.6	-0.2	-2.0
Full-time	5,316.7	5,277.1	-39.6	-180.8	-0.7	-3.3
Part-time	1,242.2	1,271.0	28.8	46.2	2.3	3.8
Unemployment	626.7	620.4	-6.3	164.2	-1.0	36.0
Participation rate	67.8	67.5	-0.3	-0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.7	8.7	0.0	2.3	...	...
Employment rate	61.8	61.7	-0.1	-2.2	...	...
Manitoba						
Population	916.8	918.0	1.2	12.1	0.1	1.3
Labour force	638.4	636.0	-2.4	4.6	-0.4	0.7
Employment	607.9	603.7	-4.2	-0.2	-0.7	0.0
Full-time	494.2	495.4	1.2	1.5	0.2	0.3
Part-time	113.7	108.3	-5.4	-1.7	-4.7	-1.5
Unemployment	30.5	32.3	1.8	4.8	5.9	17.5
Participation rate	69.6	69.3	-0.3	-0.4	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.8	5.1	0.3	0.7	...	...
Employment rate	66.3	65.8	-0.5	-0.9	...	...
Saskatchewan						
Population	775.6	776.3	0.7	14.1	0.1	1.8
Labour force	548.3	545.4	-2.9	15.0	-0.5	2.8
Employment	522.5	519.8	-2.7	11.7	-0.5	2.3
Full-time	424.2	421.4	-2.8	3.0	-0.7	0.7
Part-time	98.3	98.5	0.2	8.8	0.2	9.8
Unemployment	25.8	25.6	-0.2	3.4	-0.8	15.3
Participation rate	70.7	70.3	-0.4	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.7	4.7	0.0	0.5	...	...
Employment rate	67.4	67.0	-0.4	0.3	...	...
Alberta						
Population	2,836.1	2,841.7	5.6	62.5	0.2	2.2
Labour force	2,116.5	2,110.1	-6.4	37.5	-0.3	1.8
Employment	2,002.1	1,987.2	-14.9	-14.0	-0.7	-0.7
Full-time	1,652.6	1,632.9	-19.7	-59.8	-1.2	-3.5
Part-time	349.5	354.3	4.8	45.8	1.4	14.8
Unemployment	114.5	123.0	8.5	51.6	7.4	72.3
Participation rate	74.6	74.3	-0.3	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.4	5.8	0.4	2.4	...	...
Employment rate	70.6	69.9	-0.7	-2.1	...	...
British Columbia						
Population	3,681.8	3,685.8	4.0	65.9	0.1	1.8
Labour force	2,424.4	2,420.2	-4.2	-3.4	-0.2	-0.1
Employment	2,262.7	2,240.1	-22.6	-76.6	-1.0	-3.3
Full-time	1,769.9	1,760.0	-9.9	-85.3	-0.6	-4.6
Part-time	492.9	480.1	-12.8	8.6	-2.6	1.8
Unemployment	161.7	180.1	18.4	73.3	11.4	68.6
Participation rate	65.8	65.7	-0.1	-1.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.7	7.4	0.7	3.0	...	...
Employment rate	61.5	60.8	-0.7	-3.2	...	...

... not applicable

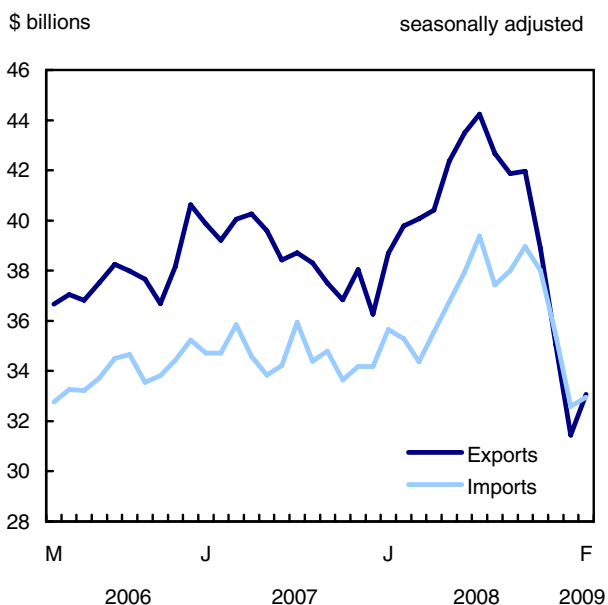
Note: Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Canadian international merchandise trade

February 2009

Merchandise exports and imports both advanced in February following three months of rapid declines. Exports rose 5.2% to \$33.1 billion as all sectors increased and auto makers resumed production. Meanwhile, imports increased 1.1% to \$33.0 billion led by machinery and equipment. This resulted in a small trade surplus of \$126 million, up from a deficit of \$1.2 billion in January.

Exports and imports



After leading the decline in January, exports of machinery and equipment and automotive products accounted for almost three-quarters of the gain in exports in February. The increase in total exports was due to a 7.0% increase in volume while prices declined 1.7%.

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 text are calculated using the Laspeyres volume formula which is current dollars divided by Paasche indexes.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Current and previous year revisions are reflected in both the customs and balance of payments based data. Revisions to customs based data for the previous year are also released on a quarterly basis.

Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates 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.

The February gain in imports was primarily supported by machinery and equipment and automotive products, while weaknesses in energy products dampened the growth. Overall, both price (+0.9%) and volume (+0.2%) increased.

Exports to the United States increased 5.0% on the strength of automotive products and precious metals. Imports rose 3.7%, largely reflecting increases in automotive products and aircraft. As a result, Canada's merchandise trade surplus with the United States increased to \$3.4 billion in February from \$3.0 billion in January.

Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States narrowed to \$3.3 billion in February from \$4.2 billion in January, as exports increased 5.9%

Merchandise trade

	January 2009 ^r	February 2009	January to February 2009	February 2008 to February 2009
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current				
	\$ millions		% change	
Principal trading partners				
Exports				
United States	23,126	24,274	5.0	-20.7
Japan	905	908	0.3	-9.5
European Union ¹	2,908	2,816	-3.2	-11.5
Other OECD countries ²	1,253	1,334	6.5	-3.1
All other countries	3,247	3,745	15.3	3.5
Total	31,439	33,077	5.2	-16.8
Imports				
United States	20,097	20,849	3.7	-5.6
Japan	1,070	728	-32.0	-27.2
European Union ¹	3,280	3,641	11.0	7.2
Other OECD countries ²	2,221	1,907	-14.1	-16.9
All other countries	5,923	5,826	-1.6	-10.5
Total	32,591	32,951	1.1	-6.6
Balance				
United States	3,029	3,425	...	...
Japan	-165	180	...	...
European Union ¹	-372	-825	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-968	-573	...	...
All other countries	-2,676	-2,081	...	...
Total	-1,152	126	...	...
Principal commodity groupings				
Exports				
Agricultural and fishing products	3,381	3,446	1.9	8.8
Energy products	6,421	6,458	0.6	-35.6
Forestry products	1,762	1,852	5.1	-14.7
Industrial goods and materials	6,840	7,057	3.2	-22.2
Machinery and equipment	7,427	8,053	8.4	10.0
Automotive products	2,957	3,542	19.8	-37.3
Other consumer goods	1,587	1,623	2.3	22.6
Special transactions trade ³	618	607	-1.8	-0.8
Other balance of payments adjustments	446	437	-2.0	-1.6
Imports				
Agricultural and fishing products	2,569	2,537	-1.2	14.4
Energy products	3,002	2,769	-7.8	-26.2
Forestry products	222	216	-2.7	-11.1
Industrial goods and materials	6,877	6,947	1.0	-4.3
Machinery and equipment	9,721	10,077	3.7	4.1
Automotive products	3,954	4,080	3.2	-37.7
Other consumer goods	5,040	5,094	1.1	13.2
Special transactions trade ³	522	537	2.9	42.4
Other balance of payments adjustments	686	695	1.3	-3.3

^r revised

... not applicable

1. Includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

2. Other countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) include Australia, Canada, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland and Turkey.

3. These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

Note: Totals may not equal the sum of their components.

New Housing Price Index

February 2009

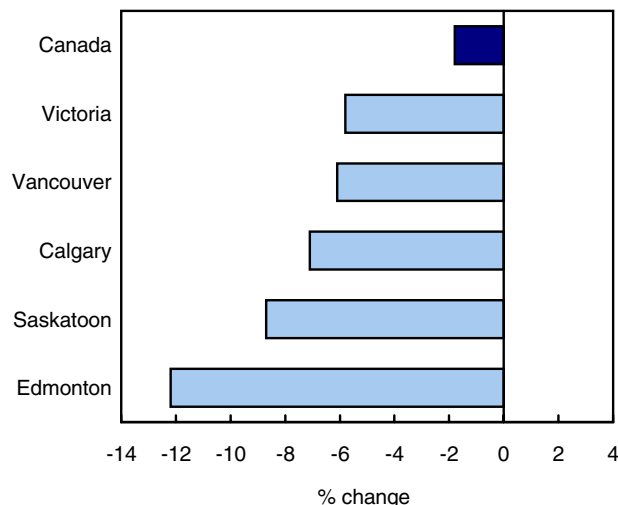
Contractors' selling prices decreased 0.7% between January and February, compared with a 0.6% decline a month earlier. This resulted in a New Housing Price Index of 155.3 (1997=100).

Between January and February, prices declined 3.0% in Edmonton, followed by Vancouver (-2.9%), Saskatoon (-2.1%), Victoria (-1.7%) and Calgary (-0.9%). In all these cities, except for Saskatoon, poor market conditions continued to be the main reason for the decreases. In Saskatoon, declines were attributed to lower material and labour costs and competitive market conditions.

In Québec, new housing prices increased 2.6% from a month earlier, as some builders moved to new development phases with increased land values. Other builders increased their prices significantly as a result of a shortage of available land in the city.

In Charlottetown, prices increased by 1.2%, partly as a result of increased land values in the current market.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year (cities with the smallest or negative change)



Prices also increased from a month earlier in Regina (+0.9%) and London (+0.8%).

The New Housing Price Index was down 1.8% in February compared with the same month a year earlier. This was the second consecutive year-over-year

decrease at the Canada level, and the largest decline since September 1996 (-2.0%).

On the Prairies, 12-month declines were recorded in Edmonton (-12.2%), Saskatoon (-8.7%) and Calgary (-7.1%).

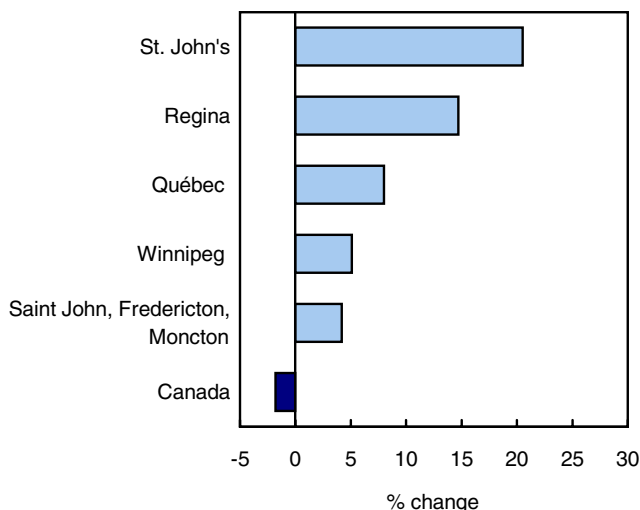
On the West Coast, Vancouver (-6.1%) and Victoria (-5.8%) each posted year-over-year declines.

Among surveyed cities, the largest year-over-year increase was registered in St. John's at 20.5%, followed by Regina at 14.7%.

In Québec, the 12-month growth rate was 8.0%, while in Montréal, prices increased 3.1%.

Compared with February 2008, contractors' selling prices were 5.1% higher in Winnipeg, and 4.2% higher in Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year (cities with the largest positive change)



Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The fourth quarter 2008 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) will be available in April.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; toll-free 1-866-230-2248; fax: 613-951-3117; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca), Prices Division.

New housing price indexes

	February 2009	February 2008 to February 2009	January to February 2009
	(1997=100)	% change	
Canada total	155.3	-1.8	-0.7
House only	163.1	-3.0	-0.8
Land only	139.4	0.6	-0.6
St. John's	179.0	20.5	-0.1
Halifax	150.5	2.8	0.1
Charlottetown	121.0	0.3	1.2
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	120.3	4.2	0.3
Québec	164.6	8.0	2.6
Montréal	164.4	3.1	0.3
Ottawa-Gatineau	169.6	2.0	0.0
Toronto and Oshawa	146.4	0.8	-0.1
Hamilton	152.2	0.2	-0.1
St. Catharines-Niagara	155.9	0.5	0.0
Kitchener	143.2	1.5	0.0
London	144.4	2.8	0.8
Windsor	103.7	0.1	0.0
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay	112.7	2.0	0.0
Winnipeg	181.4	5.1	0.0
Regina	250.9	14.7	0.9
Saskatoon	215.2	-8.7	-2.1
Calgary	233.6	-7.1	-0.9
Edmonton	215.7	-12.2	-3.0
Vancouver	116.2	-6.1	-2.9
Victoria	112.4	-5.8	-1.7

Note: View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.

Chain Fisher real export and import values February 2009

The monthly chain Fisher real dollar values (reference year 2002) for Canadian international merchandise trade are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0056 and 228-0057.

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

The February 2009 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 63, no. 2 (65-001-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division. ■

Export and import price indexes February 2009

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (2002=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 2002 to February 2009 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (2002=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 2002 to February 2009. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes on a customs basis for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available upon request.

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 February 2009 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 63, no. 2 (65-001-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

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Natural gas transportation and distribution March to December 2008

Data on natural gas transportation and distribution are now available for March to December.

Note: A number of data series have been revised for January and February 2008.

Available on CANSIM: tables 129-0001 to 129-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

New products

Industry Price Indexes, February 2009, Vol. 35, no. 2
Catalogue number 62-011-XWE
(free).

Canadian International Merchandise Trade,
February 2009, Vol. 63, no. 2
Catalogue number 65-001-XWE
(free).

Labour Force Information, March 15 to 21, 2009
Catalogue number 71-001-XWE
(free).

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

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The Daily, April 9, 2009

Release dates: April 14 to 17, 2009

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
15	Health Reports	2007
15	New motor vehicle sales	February 2009
16	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	February 2009
17	Consumer Price Index	March 2009
17	Investment in non-residential building construction	First quarter 2009