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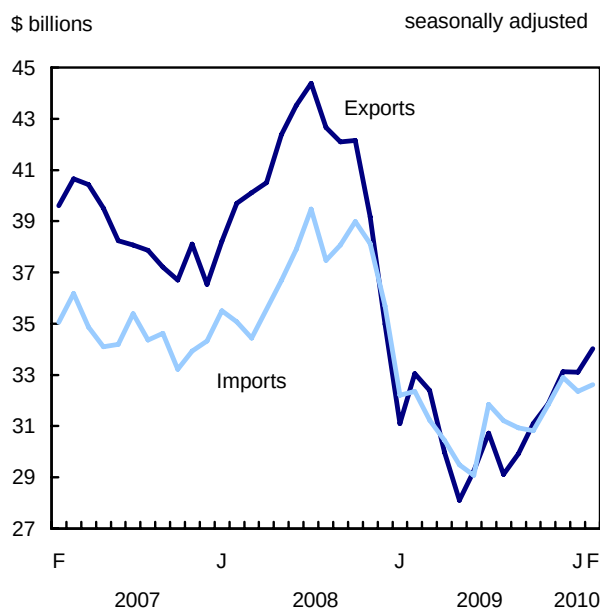
Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade

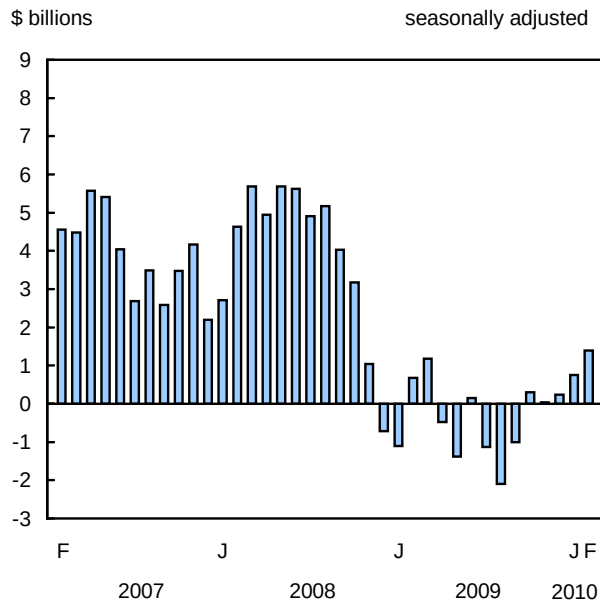
February 2010

Canada's merchandise exports grew 2.8% in February, on the strength of industrial goods and materials, outpacing a 0.9% increase in imports. As a result, Canada's trade surplus with the world widened to \$1.4 billion in February from \$754 million in January.

Exports and imports



Trade balance



Among the seven export sectors, six post gains

Following a 6.2% gain in January, exports of industrial goods and materials grew 7.2% to \$7.9 billion in February. Although the gains were broad-based, increased volumes of metals ores and higher prices of chemical, plastics and fertilizers accounted for almost three-quarters of the growth.

Metals ores exports increased 36.5%, on the strength of nickel ores and copper ores, while fertilizers and fertilizer materials, such as potash, led the 4.5% gain in exports of chemicals, plastics and fertilizers. Exports of fertilizers and fertilizer materials increased for a fifth consecutive month in February.

Exports of automotive products rose 5.0% to \$4.5 billion, largely due to a 4.6% volume increase. Exports of passenger autos grew 9.4%, as some manufacturers resumed production after extended plant shutdowns in January. In contrast, exports of motor vehicle parts declined 2.9%, after three consecutive months of increases.

Exports of energy products grew 0.8% to \$8.7 billion, as prices rose 1.8%. Higher exports of crude petroleum were nearly offset by decreases in exports of natural gas as well as petroleum and coal products. Exports of crude petroleum increased 6.1%, largely as a result of price increases. Natural gas exports decreased for the first time since May 2009, falling 7.6% as a result of lower volumes.

Energy products dampen the growth in imports

Imports of energy products, which declined for the second consecutive month, fell 14.2% to \$2.9 billion in February. Imports of crude petroleum decreased 18.1% as volumes fell 22.2%, largely reflecting production disruptions and maintenance at some refineries. Imports of coal and other related products declined 16.5%, mainly due to lower imports of natural gas.

After two months of decreases, imports of machinery and equipment grew 3.3% to \$8.7 billion. This represented the fourth increase in imports of machinery and equipment since the peak of November 2008. Widespread growth throughout the sector was led by industrial and agricultural machinery, as well as other machinery and equipment.

Industrial and agricultural machinery imports increased 7.0% on the strength of excavating machinery, up 50.4%. Other machinery and equipment grew largely as a result of higher imports of communication equipment.

Imports of automotive products rose 3.5% to \$6.0 billion, the highest value since October 2008. The gain was mainly due to a 3.1% increase in volumes. Imports of passenger autos grew 9.8%, and were the main factor behind the growth in the sector. Imports of trucks and other motor vehicles advanced 3.7%, the fifth consecutive month of increases, reflecting the demand for large pick-up trucks.

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.

These data are available in the Canadian international merchandise trade database.

The February 2010 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 64, no. 2 (65-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001-X, free).

Data on Canadian International Merchandise Trade for March will be released on May 12.

For more information, contact Sharon Nevins (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9798;

trade@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mychèle Gagnon (613-951-0994), International Trade Division.

Merchandise trade: Principal trading areas

	February 2009 ^r	January 2010 ^r	February 2010	January to February 2010	February 2009 to February 2010
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current					
	\$ millions			% change	
Exports					
United States	24,338	24,769	25,252	2.0	3.8
Japan	846	793	792	-0.1	-6.4
European Union ¹	2,789	2,718	2,853	5.0	2.3
Other OECD countries ²	1,328	1,481	1,604	8.3	20.8
All other countries	3,745	3,340	3,516	5.3	-6.1
Total	33,046	33,102	34,018	2.8	2.9
Imports					
United States	20,526	20,607	20,857	1.2	1.6
Japan	752	744	892	19.9	18.6
European Union ¹	3,366	3,044	3,026	-0.6	-10.1
Other OECD countries ²	2,004	2,436	2,422	-0.6	20.9
All other countries	5,715	5,517	5,426	-1.6	-5.1
Total	32,363	32,348	32,623	0.9	0.8
Balance					
United States	3,812	4,162	4,395	...	...
Japan	94	49	-100	...	...
European Union ¹	-577	-326	-173	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-676	-955	-818	...	...
All other countries	-1,970	-2,177	-1,910	...	...
Total	683	754	1,395	...	...

^r revised

... not applicable

1. The European Union 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.

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

Merchandise trade: Principal commodity groupings

	February 2009 ^r	January 2010 ^r	February 2010	January to February 2010	February 2009 to February 2010
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current					
	\$ millions		% change		
Exports					
Agricultural and fishing products	3,400	2,944	3,002	2.0	-11.7
Energy products	6,711	8,608	8,681	0.8	29.4
Forestry products	1,796	1,648	1,682	2.1	-6.3
Industrial goods and materials	6,873	7,349	7,878	7.2	14.6
Machinery and equipment	8,009	6,008	6,034	0.4	-24.7
Automotive products	3,558	4,310	4,524	5.0	27.2
Other consumer goods	1,615	1,453	1,432	-1.4	-11.3
Special transactions trade ¹	609	319	327	2.5	-46.3
Other balance of payments adjustments	475	462	458	-0.9	-3.6
Total	33,046	33,102	34,018	2.8	2.9
Imports					
Agricultural and fishing products	2,530	2,361	2,380	0.8	-5.9
Energy products	2,783	3,371	2,894	-14.2	4.0
Forestry products	211	206	221	7.3	4.7
Industrial goods and materials	6,783	6,462	6,477	0.2	-4.5
Machinery and equipment	9,963	8,413	8,688	3.3	-12.8
Automotive products	3,941	5,817	6,023	3.5	52.8
Other consumer goods	5,050	4,660	4,729	1.5	-6.4
Special transactions trade ¹	412	313	460	47.0	11.7
Other balance of payments adjustments	691	744	752	1.1	8.8
Total	32,363	32,348	32,623	0.9	0.8

^r revised

1. 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.

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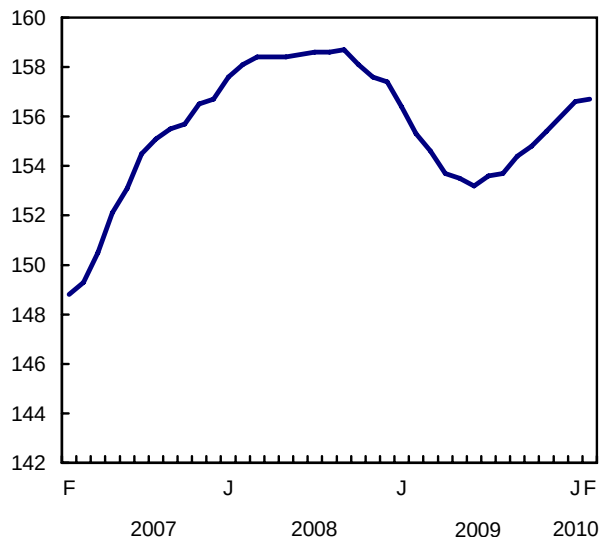
New Housing Price Index

February 2010

The New Housing Price Index (NHPI) rose 0.1% in February following a 0.4% increase in January.

Evolution of the New Housing Price Index

index (1997=100)



Between January and February, prices rose in 14 of the 21 metropolitan areas. Prices increased the most in Regina (+2.0%), followed by Winnipeg and London (both up 1.9%).

In Regina, prices rose as some builders reported higher materials costs as well as increased lot prices from developers. Other builders increased their lot prices after having re-evaluated the value of their land.

In Winnipeg, the increase in prices was primarily attributed to builders moving to new phases of development with increased land development costs. In London, builders reported higher operating costs.

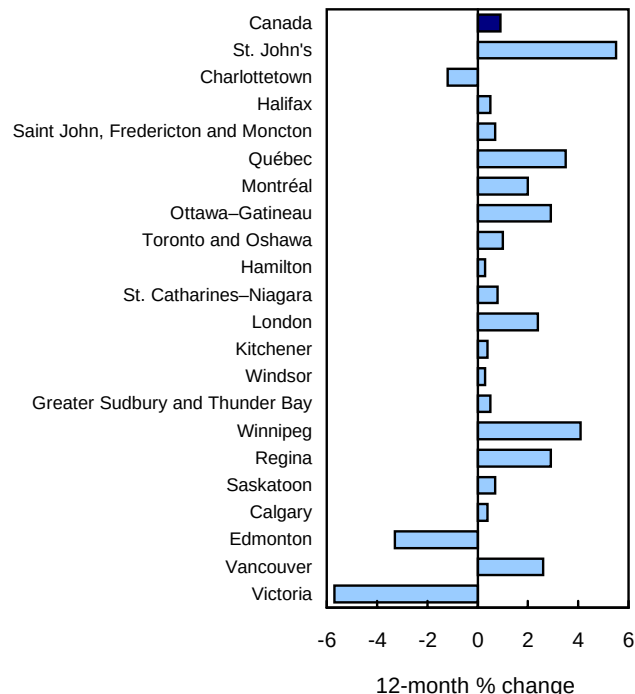
Toronto and Oshawa (-0.7%) as well as Charlottetown (-0.5%) were the only metropolitan areas to register monthly decreases in February.

In Toronto and Oshawa, although a number of builders reported increased prices due to strong market conditions and new list prices, the index has dropped as a result of the introduction of the Harmonized Sales Tax and the treatment of value added taxes in the calculation of the NHPI.

In Charlottetown, builders lowered their prices to remain competitive.

Year over year, the NHPI was up 0.9% in February following a 0.1% increase in January. This was the second consecutive year-over-year increase recorded since December 2008.

St. John's and Winnipeg contribute to the 12-month increase in the New Housing Price Index



The largest year-over-year increase was recorded in St. John's (+5.5%) followed by Winnipeg (+4.1%) and Québec (+3.5%). Higher residential land values were the primary reason for the increases in all three metropolitan areas.

Compared with February 2009, contractors' selling prices were also higher in Ottawa-Gatineau, Regina and London.

For the first time since 2008, year-over-year increases were posted in Vancouver (+2.6%) and Calgary (+0.4%).

Only three metropolitan regions registered 12-month declines in February; Victoria (-5.7%), Edmonton (-3.3%) and Charlottetown (-1.2%).

Note: The New Housing Price Index (NHPI) measures changes over time in the selling prices of new residential houses agreed upon between the contractor and the buyer at the time of the signing of the contract. It is designed to measure the changes in the selling prices of new houses where detailed specifications pertaining to each house remain the same between two consecutive periods. The prices collected from builders and included in the index are market selling prices less value added taxes.

As of July 1, 2010, the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) will come into effect in Ontario and British Columbia. According to the Canada Revenue Agency "[i]f the written agreement of purchase and sale is entered into after June 18, 2009 (November 18, 2009, in British Columbia), and both ownership and possession of the house transfer to the purchaser after June 2010, the HST at 13% (12% in British Columbia) would apply to the sale." Some builders in Ontario are already including the HST in the prices of some of their new houses. The impact of the HST is reflected in some of the metropolitan areas NHPI's in this province in

February 2010. Builders in British Columbia have not yet reported the inclusion of the HST on the prices of their new houses.

This release presents data that are not seasonally adjusted and the indexes published are final.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The fourth quarter 2009 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available soon.

The new housing price indexes for March will be released on May 12.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-4550; toll-free 1-888-951-4550; fax: 613-951-3117; ppd-info-dpp@statcan.gc.ca), Producer Prices Division.

New housing price indexes

	2010	February 2009	January 2010	February 2010	January to February 2010	February 2009 to February 2010
	Relative Importance ¹	1997=100			% change	
Canada total	100.00	155.3	156.6	156.7	0.1	0.9
House only	...	163.1	165.8	166.1	0.2	1.8
Land only	...	139.4	137.9	137.7	-0.1	-1.2
St. John's	1.20	179.0	188.9	188.9	0.0	5.5
Charlottetown	0.31	121.0	120.2	119.6	-0.5	-1.2
Halifax	1.22	150.5	151.3	151.3	0.0	0.5
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton ²	0.88	120.3	120.9	121.1	0.2	0.7
Québec	2.46	164.6	170.4	170.4	0.0	3.5
Montréal	10.11	164.4	167.2	167.7	0.3	2.0
Ottawa-Gatineau	4.71	169.6	173.5	174.6	0.6	2.9
Toronto and Oshawa ²	33.99	146.4	148.9	147.8	-0.7	1.0
Hamilton	2.96	152.2	151.3	152.7	0.9	0.3
St. Catharines-Niagara	0.96	155.9	156.8	157.2	0.3	0.8
London	1.91	144.4	145.1	147.9	1.9	2.4
Kitchener	2.17	143.2	143.7	143.8	0.1	0.4
Windsor	0.65	103.7	104.0	104.0	0.0	0.3
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay ²	0.85	112.7	113.0	113.3	0.3	0.5
Winnipeg	1.62	181.4	185.3	188.8	1.9	4.1
Regina	0.59	250.9	253.1	258.1	2.0	2.9
Saskatoon	0.81	215.2	214.8	216.6	0.8	0.7
Calgary	7.88	233.6	234.4	234.6	0.1	0.4
Edmonton	8.29	215.7	207.9	208.6	0.3	-3.3
Vancouver	14.39	116.2	118.5	119.2	0.6	2.6
Victoria	2.04	112.4	106.0	106.0	0.0	-5.7

... not applicable

1. The relative importance is calculated using a price adjusted three-year average of the value of building completions for each metropolitan area.

2. In order to ensure data confidentiality, the following Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomeration are grouped together as follows: Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton; Toronto and Oshawa; and Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

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



Export and import price indexes

February 2010

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (2002=100) on a customs or balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 2002 to February 2010 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 2010. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

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.

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Chain Fisher real export and import values

February 2010

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.

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Annual Survey of Manufactures and Logging

2008

The Annual Survey of Manufactures and Logging collects information on over 250 different industries. Principal statistics for manufacturing industries for 2008 are now available for Canada, the provinces and the territories. The principal statistics for 2007 have also been revised.

Available on CANSIM: table 301-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2103.

To order data, to obtain more information, 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; manufact@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

New products and studies

Canadian International Merchandise Trade,
February 2010, Vol. 64, no. 2
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