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Canada's merchandise exports declined 0.7% in March as a result of falling prices for energy products, while imports grew 2.0% on the strength of precious metals. Export and import volumes increased during the month. Canada's trade surplus with the world narrowed to \$254 million in March from \$1.2 billion in February.	
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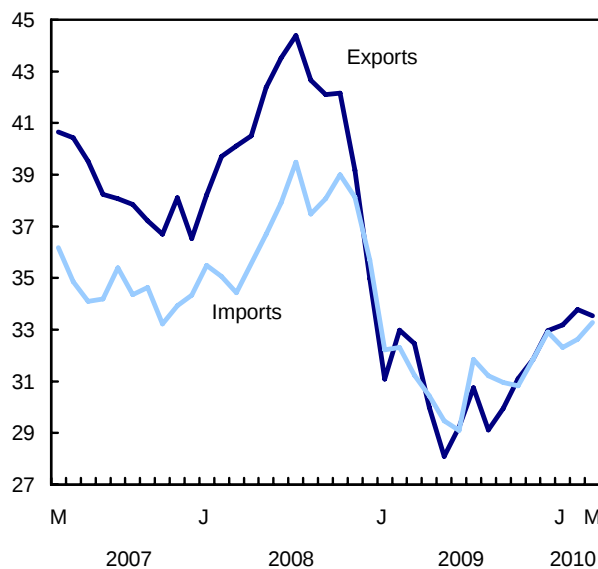
Canadian international merchandise trade

March 2010

Canada's merchandise exports declined 0.7% in March as a result of falling prices for energy products, while imports grew 2.0% on the strength of precious metals. Export and import volumes increased during the month. Canada's trade surplus with the world narrowed to \$254 million in March from \$1.2 billion in February.

Exports and imports

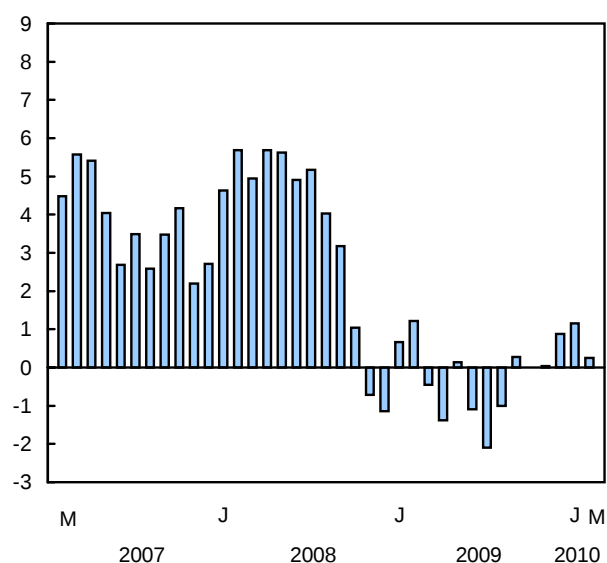
\$ billions seasonally adjusted



Trade balance

\$ billions

seasonally adjusted

**Exports of energy products decline**

Following a slight decrease in February, exports of energy products fell a further 6.6% to \$8.0 billion, the largest percentage decrease since April 2009. Exports of petroleum and coal products declined 15.8%, as a result of lower volumes. Crude petroleum and natural gas fell as a result of a decrease in prices.

Exports of machinery and equipment decreased 1.9% to \$5.8 billion, as prices fell. Although the declines were widespread throughout the sector, exports of telecommunication equipment were the main factor behind the decrease, falling 9.1%.

Exports of industrial goods and materials rose 4.7% to \$8.3 billion. This third consecutive monthly gain was mostly attributable to a 4.2% increase in volumes. Exports of precious metals grew 47.0% to reach a record high of \$1.5 billion. After gains in February, exports of fertilizers and fertilizer materials as well as copper ores fell in March.

Exports of forestry products increased 3.0% to \$1.7 billion, the seventh consecutive monthly gain, as volumes rose 4.4%. Exports of wood pulp grew 8.6%, accounting for almost three-quarters of the gain, and were followed by exports of other crude wood products, which include items such as poles, fence posts and logs.

Precious metals account for over two-thirds of the gain in imports

Imports of industrial goods and materials rose 10.4% to \$7.3 billion, the largest percentage increase since January 1992. The gain was due to an 18.5% increase in volumes, as prices fell 6.8%. Imports of metals and metal ores grew 21.2% in March, largely as a result of precious metals increasing to \$1.0 billion, a record high. Chemicals and plastics rose 6.7%, mainly on the strength of higher imports of organic chemicals, which were up for a fourth consecutive month.

Following two months of decline, imports of energy products increased 10.1% to \$3.2 billion. Imports of crude petroleum were the main factor behind the growth in the sector, rising 17.7% as result of higher volumes.

Imports of automotive products fell 5.8% to \$5.6 billion, as volumes declined 4.5%. Imports of passenger autos fell 13.3% and accounted for over three-quarters of the decrease in the sector. Imports of trucks and motor vehicle parts also fell in March.

Imports of other consumer goods declined 2.3% to \$4.6 billion, the lowest level since April 2008. Miscellaneous end products, which include items such as sporting goods, toys, and medicinal and pharmaceutical products, led the decline in the sector. The prices of miscellaneous end products have generally been decreasing since March 2009, while volumes have increased.

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

The merchandise imports and exports data in the following tables are presented in dollar values.

Tables 228-0001 to 228-0003: Customs and balance of payments basis, by major groups and principal trading areas for all countries, monthly, quarterly and annual.

Table 228-0033: Imports, customs-based, by province of clearance, monthly.

Table 228-0034: Domestic exports, customs-based, by province of origin, monthly.

Tables 228-0041 to 228-0043: Customs and balance of payments basis, by sector and sub-sector, for all countries, monthly, quarterly and annual.

Merchandise imports and exports data in the following tables are indexes (2002=100).

Tables 228-0047 to 228-0049: Balance of payments and customs-based price and volume indexes for all countries, monthly, quarterly and annual.

Tables 228-0050 to 228-0052: Customs-based price indexes, Canada and the United States trade, and Standard International Trade Classification (SITC revision 3) price indexes for all countries and the United States, monthly, quarterly and annual.

Tables 228-0053 to 228-0055: Price and volume indexes, customs and balance of payments basis, by sector and sub-sector, for all countries, monthly, quarterly and annual.

Tables 228-0056 and 228-0057: Balance of payments basis, by sector, seasonally adjusted, Fisher formula, chained 2002 dollars, for all countries, monthly and quarterly.

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 March 2010 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 64, no. 3 (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 April will be released on June 10.

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

	March 2009 ^r	February 2010 ^r	March 2010	February to March 2010	March 2009 to March 2010
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current					
	\$ millions		% change		
Exports					
United States	23,315	25,073	24,452	-2.5	4.9
Japan	859	782	682	-12.8	-20.6
European Union ¹	3,232	2,832	3,225	13.9	-0.2
Other OECD countries ²	1,327	1,580	1,735	9.8	30.7
All other countries	3,726	3,519	3,439	-2.3	-7.7
Total	32,460	33,786	33,533	-0.7	3.3
Imports					
United States	19,839	20,764	20,636	-0.6	4.0
Japan	706	885	781	-11.8	10.6
European Union ¹	3,228	3,046	3,637	19.4	12.7
Other OECD countries ²	2,032	2,477	2,485	0.3	22.3
All other countries	5,431	5,460	5,740	5.1	5.7
Total	31,236	32,632	33,279	2.0	6.5
Balance					
United States	3,476	4,309	3,816	...	...
Japan	153	-103	-99	...	...
European Union ¹	4	-214	-412	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-705	-897	-750	...	...
All other countries	-1,705	-1,941	-2,301	...	...
Total	1,224	1,154	254	...	...

^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 the 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

	March 2009 ^r	February 2010 ^r	March 2010	February to March 2010	March 2009 to March 2010
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current					
	\$ millions		% change		
Exports					
Agricultural and fishing products	3,327	2,998	3,031	1.1	-8.9
Energy products	6,662	8,577	8,008	-6.6	20.2
Forestry products	1,691	1,694	1,745	3.0	3.2
Industrial goods and materials	6,889	7,897	8,265	4.7	20.0
Machinery and equipment	7,751	5,923	5,808	-1.9	-25.1
Automotive products	3,446	4,510	4,471	-0.9	29.7
Other consumer goods	1,693	1,415	1,390	-1.8	-17.9
Special transactions trade ¹	577	326	369	13.2	-36.0
Other balance of payments adjustments	424	446	445	-0.2	5.0
Total	32,460	33,786	33,533	-0.7	3.3
Imports					
Agricultural and fishing products	2,487	2,382	2,430	2.0	-2.3
Energy products	2,364	2,874	3,165	10.1	33.9
Forestry products	210	221	224	1.4	6.7
Industrial goods and materials	6,565	6,589	7,274	10.4	10.8
Machinery and equipment	9,560	8,730	8,802	0.8	-7.9
Automotive products	4,140	5,971	5,623	-5.8	35.8
Other consumer goods	4,862	4,728	4,620	-2.3	-5.0
Special transactions trade ¹	382	392	394	0.5	3.1
Other balance of payments adjustments	665	747	747	0.0	12.3
Total	31,236	32,632	33,279	2.0	6.5

^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.

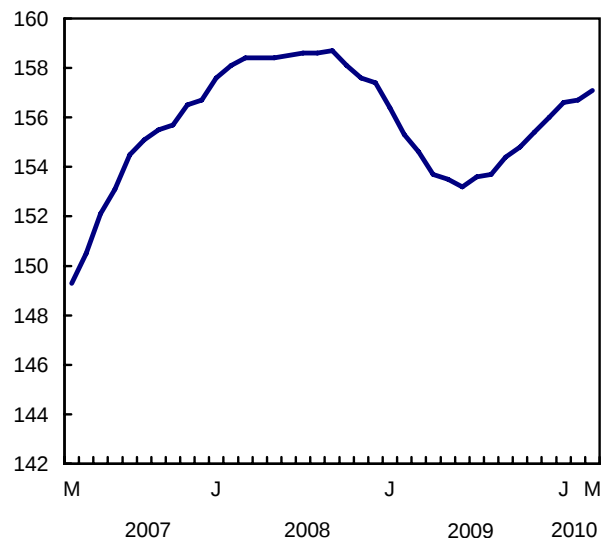
New Housing Price Index

March 2010

The New Housing Price Index (NHPI) rose 0.3% in March, following a 0.1% increase in February. The index has been advancing since July 2009.

Evolution of the New Housing Price Index

index (1997=100)



Between February and March, prices rose the most in London (+1.7%), followed by Montréal and Kitchener (both up +1.0%).

In London, builders continued to report higher operating costs. In Kitchener, builders reported new list prices.

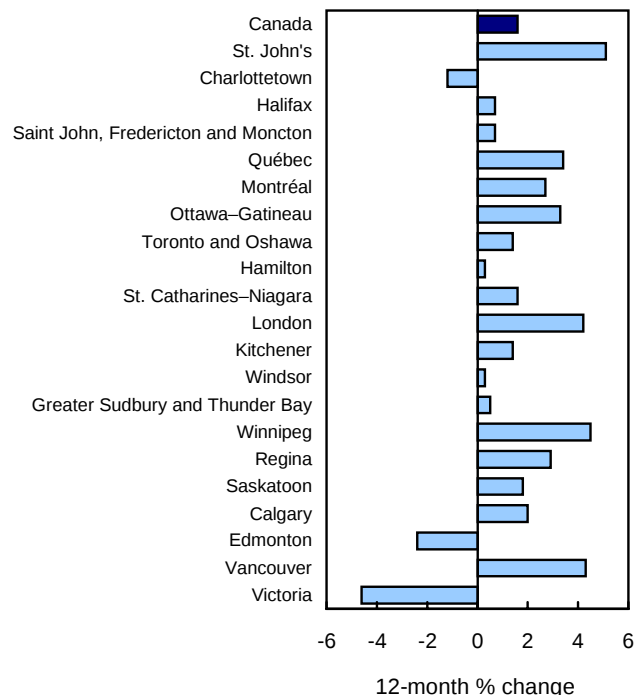
In Montréal, builders increased their prices as a result of higher material costs, strong market conditions and higher land development costs.

Charlottetown (-0.5%) registered the largest monthly decline in March, followed by Hamilton and Edmonton (both down -0.3%).

In Charlottetown and Hamilton, some builders recorded lower negotiated selling prices. In Edmonton, some builders reported a decrease of their lot prices.

Year over year, the NHPI was up 1.6% in March, following a 0.9% increase in February. The growth in March was mostly due to higher prices in Vancouver.

Vancouver contributes to the 12-month increase in the New Housing Price Index



The largest year-over-year rise was recorded in St. John's (+5.1%), followed by Winnipeg (+4.5%) and Vancouver (+4.3%).

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

Among the 21 metropolitan regions, 3 registered 12-month declines in March: Victoria (-4.6%), Edmonton (-2.4%) 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 builder 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, such as the federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) or the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).

As of July 1, 2010, the 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." Several builders in Ontario and in British Columbia are already including the HST in the prices of some of their new houses.

The provincial sales tax on building materials in Ontario and in British Columbia is embedded in the contractor's selling prices of new houses. With the introduction of the HST in these two provinces, this provincial sales tax will be eliminated and replaced by the HST. As value added taxes are conceptually excluded from the index, this change may cause negative monthly variations in the index for some metropolitan regions in Ontario and British Columbia during the implementation period of the tax.

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 first quarter 2010 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available in August.

The new housing price indexes for April will be released on June 10.

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	March 2009	February 2010	March 2010	February to March 2010	March 2009 to March 2010
	relative importance ¹	(1997=100)			% change	
Canada total	100.00	154.6	156.7	157.1	0.3	1.6
House only	...	162.3	166.1	167.0	0.5	2.9
Land only	...	138.7	137.7	137.2	-0.4	-1.1
St. John's	1.20	179.8	188.9	188.9	0.0	5.1
Charlottetown	0.31	120.5	119.6	119.0	-0.5	-1.2
Halifax	1.22	150.5	151.3	151.5	0.1	0.7
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton ²	0.88	120.3	121.1	121.1	0.0	0.7
Québec	2.46	164.8	170.4	170.4	0.0	3.4
Montréal	10.11	164.9	167.7	169.4	1.0	2.7
Ottawa-Gatineau	4.71	169.6	174.6	175.2	0.3	3.3
Toronto and Oshawa ²	33.99	145.9	147.8	147.9	0.1	1.4
Hamilton	2.96	151.9	152.7	152.3	-0.3	0.3
St. Catharines-Niagara	0.96	154.5	157.2	156.9	-0.2	1.6
London	1.91	144.4	147.9	150.4	1.7	4.2
Kitchener	2.17	143.2	143.8	145.2	1.0	1.4
Windsor	0.65	103.7	104.0	104.0	0.0	0.3
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay ²	0.85	112.7	113.3	113.3	0.0	0.5
Winnipeg	1.62	181.4	188.8	189.6	0.4	4.5
Regina	0.59	250.9	258.1	258.1	0.0	2.9
Saskatoon	0.81	213.8	216.6	217.6	0.5	1.8
Calgary	7.88	230.9	234.6	235.6	0.4	2.0
Edmonton	8.29	213.1	208.6	208.0	-0.3	-2.4
Vancouver	14.39	114.9	119.2	119.8	0.5	4.3
Victoria	2.04	111.4	106.0	106.3	0.3	-4.6

... 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

March 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 March 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 March 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.

Available on CANSIM: table .

The March 2010 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 64, no. 3 (65-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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

Chain Fisher real export and import values

March 2010

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

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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now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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

Cement

March 2010

Data on cement are now available for March.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0060 and 303-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

For 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. ■

Canadian Community Health Survey: Healthy Aging

2008/2009

Data from the Canadian Community Health Survey: Healthy Aging are now available.

The survey focuses on the health of Canadians aged 45 and over by examining the various factors that have an impact on healthy aging, such as general health and well being, the use of health care services, social participation, and work and retirement transitions.

Data were collected from December 2008 to November 2009, and about 30,900 individuals aged 45 years and older in the provinces were interviewed.

Available on CANSIM: table 105-1200.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5146.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; hd-ds@statcan.gc.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

New products and studies

Canadian International Merchandise Trade,
March 2010, Vol. 64, no. 3
Catalogue number 65-001-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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

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