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Releases

Releases

2011 Census of Agriculture

The trend to consolidation and adaptation in the Canadian agricultural sector continued between 2006 and 2011 as the number of census farms declined and many farms expanded and consolidated their operations. The 2011 Census of Agriculture showed a shift away from livestock-based farms to crop-based farms. A full analysis is available in the analytical report, "A snapshot of Canadian agriculture."

The 2011 Census of Agriculture counted 205,730 census farms, a decline of 23,643 or 10.3% from 2006. At the same time, the number of farm operators fell by 33,135 or 10.1% to 293,925.

Farm numbers have been declining steadily since 1941. Between 2006 and 2011, the number fell in every province except Nova Scotia, where it rose 2.9%. The number of operators was down everywhere in Canada except Nova Scotia, where it increased 2.5%, and British Columbia, where it was up marginally.

Between 2006 and 2011, the average size of Canadian farms increased 6.9% from 728 acres to 778 acres. In Saskatchewan, the average farm size increased 15.1% to 1,668 acres, the largest increase in the country.

Production shifted as well. Crop production and beef farming have long been the backbone of Canadian agriculture, but the gap between the two has widened. In 2006, oilseed and grain farms accounted for 26.9% of all farms and beef farms accounted for 26.6%. By 2011, the share of oilseed and grain farms had increased to 30.0%, while the share of beef farms had declined to 18.2%.

Farm operators

Farm operators are getting older, an indication of the impact of the baby boom generation on agriculture. For the first time, operators in the 55 and over age group represented the largest share of total operators. They accounted for 48.3% in 2011 compared with 40.7% in 2006 and with 32.1% in 1991.

Farm operators under 35 represented 8.2% of the total in 2011, a decrease from 9.1% in 2006 and less than half the proportion of 19.9% two decades earlier. Those aged 35 to 54 accounted for 43.5% in 2011, down from 50.2% in 2006.

Financial snapshot

In 2010, the year prior to the census, gross farm receipts amounted to $51.1 billion, up 3.9% (at 2010 constant prices) from 2005. This growth occurred primarily on larger farms.

For every dollar of receipts in 2010, Canadian farmers had an average of 83 cents in expenses (excluding depreciation), about 3 cents less than in 2005.

Farms with $500,000 and over in gross farm receipts in 2010 accounted for 11.5% of all farms and 67.9% of the total gross farm receipts in Canada. In 2006, they represented 8.6% of farms and 60.1% of gross farm receipts.

In 2011, Canada had 9,602 farms that reported $1 million or more in gross farm receipts, a 31.2% increase from 2006. These farms accounted for 4.7% of all farms and 49.1% of receipts, up from 3.2% and 42.8% respectively five years earlier.

Overall, the main farm type was oilseed and grain farms, which reported $18.2 billion in gross farm receipts in 2010, up 49.5% from 2005. This farm type accounted for 35.7% of total receipts in 2010.

Beef farms came second with $7.3 billion in gross farm receipts in 2010, 14.3% of the total.

Paid labour

For the first time, the Census of Agriculture asked operators for the number of paid employees working on their farms.

Just over one-third (34.0%) of farms reported paid labour. The 2011 Census of Agriculture counted 297,683 paid employees, of whom 37.6% or 112,059 worked year-round in a full or part-time capacity. A total of 185,624 or 62.4% were seasonal or temporary employees.

Work on and off the farm

Most farm operators continued to work more than 40 hours a week on the farm, although the proportion declined. In 2010, 4 out of 10 operators, or 40.1%, worked more than 40 hours a week on their farm operations, down from 46.7% in 2005.

Female operators were more likely to work part-time on the farm; 62.3% reported fewer than 30 hours a week on the farm, compared with 40.4% of male operators.

On the other hand, the majority of operators did not work off the farm; this was consistent for both males and females. In 2010, 46.9% of operators worked off the farm, down from 48.4% in 2005.

Agriculture: A quick glance at other trends

In 2011, canola area surpassed that of spring wheat, which lost its position as Canada's number one field crop. It was the fourth consecutive census in which spring wheat area fell. The area of canola reported was 19.4 million acres, a 55.9% increase from 2006, while spring wheat area fell by 10.0% to 16.9 million acres.

The number of certified organic operations increased 4.4% from 2006 to 3,713. They represented 1.8% of all farms in Canada, compared with 1.5% in 2006 and 0.9% in 2001.

For the first time, no-till practices accounted for more than half of all area prepared for seeding across the country. This shift was the result of a 23.8% increase in the area of land seeded using no-till practices. Overall, 17.1% more farms reported using this practice than in 2006.

The percentage of farms that were using the Internet for farm business increased from 34.9% in 2006 to 55.6% in 2011. In 2011, 44.8% of all farms reported having access to high-speed Internet.

Note to readers

For the purpose of the Census of Agriculture, a census farm (agricultural operation) is any operation that produces agricultural products with the intention of selling them.

This includes a variety of farms, from those operated by people who choose farming for lifestyle reasons, to those who farm for economic reasons, with or without off-farm work.

All data on farm receipts are for the year preceding the census. In the case of the 2011 Census, these data refer to 2010. All dollar figures are expressed in terms of their value in 2010. This is referred to in this release as "2010 constant prices."

This is the first data release from the 2011 Census of Agriculture. Selected historical farm and operator data will be released in December 2012. The Agriculture-National Household Survey linkage, scheduled for release in November 2013, provides a socio-economic profile of Canada's farm population, operators and their families.

Statistics Canada would like to thank the Canadian farming community for their participation and assistance in the 2011 Census of Agriculture.

Table 1
Number of farms, farm area, and average farm size by province, with percentage change since 2006, Canada and the provinces, 2011

	Farms		Area		Average farm size	
	2011	2006 to 2011	2011	2006 to 2011	2011	2006 to 2011
	number	% change	acres	% change	acres	% change
Canada	**205,730**	**-10.3**	**160,155,748**	**-4.1**	**778**	**6.9**
Newfoundland and Labrador	510	-8.6	77,349	-13.5	152	-5.0
Prince Edward Island	1,495	-12.1	594,324	-4.1	398	9.0
Nova Scotia	3,905	2.9	1,018,075	2.2	261	-0.4
New Brunswick	2,611	-5.9	937,829	-4.0	359	2.0
Quebec	29,437	-4.0	8,256,614	-3.5	280	0.4
Ontario	51,950	-9.2	12,668,236	-4.8	244	4.7
Manitoba	15,877	-16.7	18,023,472	-5.5	1,135	13.4
Saskatchewan	36,952	-16.6	61,628,148	-4.1	1,668	15.1
Alberta	43,234	-12.5	50,498,834	-3.1	1,168	10.7
British Columbia	19,759	-0.4	6,452,867	-7.9	327	-7.4

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3438.

The analytical report, "A snapshot of Canadian agriculture" as well as provincial highlights are now available online.

The *Census Agricultural Regions Boundary File: Reference Guide*, 2011 Census of Agriculture (92-637-G, free), and the *Census Agricultural Regions Boundary File*, 2011 Census of Agriculture (92-637-X, free), are also available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

The *Farm and Farm Operator Data*, 2011 Census of Agriculture (95-640-X, free), is also available. It contains all farm and farm operator variables for 2011, where users can search data both by geography and by variable at the national, provincial and sub-provincial levels.

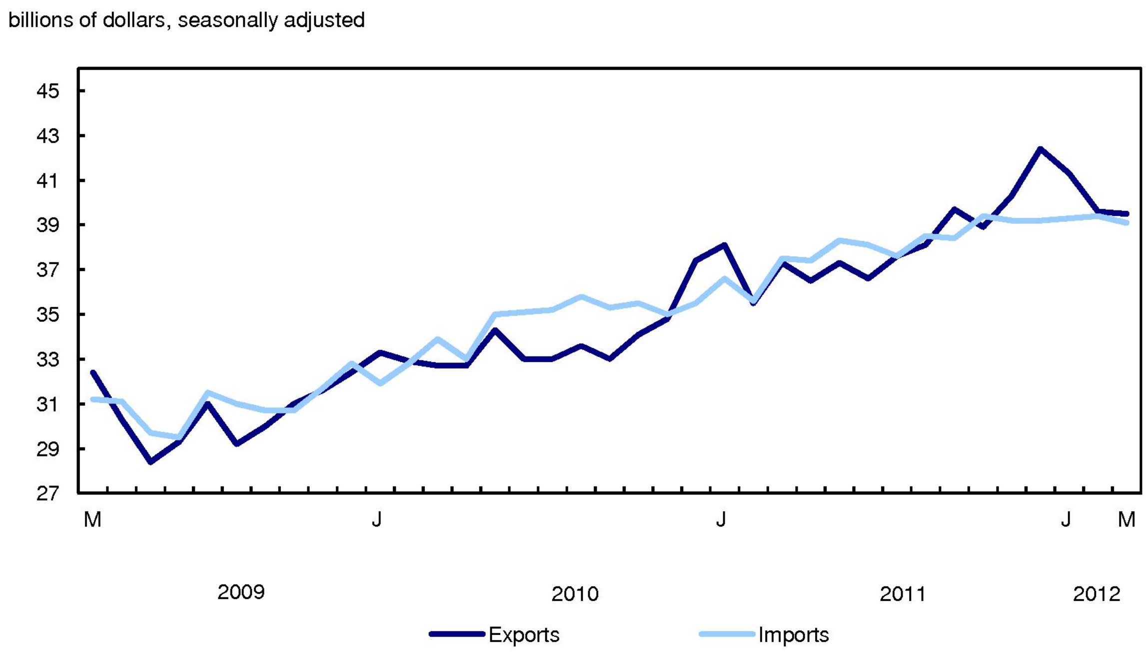
For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Rosemary Villani (613-951-2889), Agriculture Division.

Canadian international merchandise trade, March 2012

Canada's merchandise exports edged down 0.4% and imports decreased 0.6%. As a result, Canada's trade surplus increased from $273 million in February to $351 million in March.

Chart 1
Exports and imports



Exports decreased for a third consecutive month to $39.5 billion, as prices fell 1.3%. Exports of energy products led the overall decline, partially offset by increases of industrial goods and materials as well as machinery and equipment.

Imports declined to $39.1 billion, as prices decreased 2.3%. The overall decline was a result of lower imports of energy products and industrial goods and materials. All remaining sectors registered increases.

Exports to the United States fell 2.1% to $28.7 billion, the third consecutive monthly decrease. Imports also declined, down 1.4% to $24.1 billion in March. Consequently, Canada's trade surplus with the United States decreased from $4.9 billion in February to $4.6 billion in March.

Exports to countries other than the United States rose 4.5% to $10.8 billion and imports increased 0.8% to $15.1 billion. As a result, Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States narrowed from $4.6 billion in February to $4.3 billion in March.

Lower prices of energy products contribute to the overall decline in exports

Exports of energy products fell 8.9% to $9.9 billion in March, primarily the result of lower prices, down 8.0%. Exports of crude petroleum were solely responsible for the overall decrease, down 15.7% as a result of a decrease in prices and volumes. Higher exports of petroleum and coal products, mainly diesel fuel, partially offset the decline in the sector.

Exports of industrial goods and materials increased 6.2% to $9.9 billion as a result of higher volumes and prices. Exports of precious metals and alloys, organic chemicals as well as copper ores, concentrates and scrap led the sector's gain, on the strength of volumes.

Exports of machinery and equipment grew 3.4% to $6.9 billion in March as volumes rose 3.0%. The main contributor to the increase was higher exports of other end products, primarily gold coins.

Exports of other consumer goods, mainly medicinal and pharmaceutical products, increased 11.6% to $1.4 billion, the result of higher volumes, up 11.2%.

Energy products leads the decline in imports

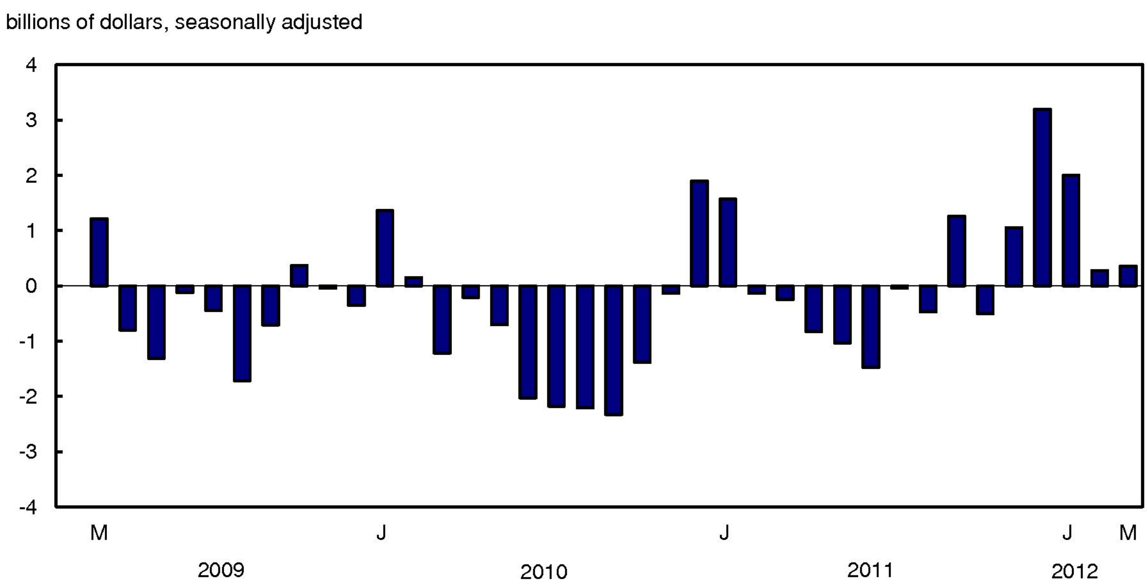
Imports of energy products fell 14.9% to $4.3 billion in March, as volumes fell 13.9%. The decline was mostly the result of lower imports of petroleum and coal products, down 32.1%, after reaching a record high in February.

Imports of industrial goods and materials declined 4.0% to $8.1 billion, as prices fell 5.4%. Precious metals and alloys led the decrease, falling 15.9% as prices declined. Imports of metals in ores, concentrates and scrap also contributed to the sector's decline, a result of lower volumes.

Imports of automotive products rose 4.7% to $6.5 billion as volumes and prices increased. Trucks and other motor vehicles, up 7.0%, reached a record high of $1.8 billion. Passenger autos and chassis and motor vehicle parts also recorded gains, up 4.5% and 3.3%, respectively.

Imports of machinery and equipment increased 2.3% to $10.8 billion, as volumes increased 2.8%. The increase was led by higher imports of other machinery and equipment, primarily laboratory equipment, as well as industrial and agricultural machinery.

Chart 2
Trade balance



Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of Canada's international balance of payments (BOP), which also includes trade in services, investment income, current transfers as well as capital and financial flows.

International merchandise trade data by country are available on both a BOP 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. BOP data are derived from customs data by making adjustments for factors 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.

Data in this release are on a BOP basis, seasonally adjusted and in current dollars. Constant dollars are calculated using the Laspeyres volume formula.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Current year revisions are reflected in both the customs and BOP based data.

The previous year's customs data are revised with the release of the January and February reference months as well as on a quarterly basis. The previous two years of customs based data are revised annually and are released in February with the December reference month.

The previous year's BOP based data will be revised with the release of the January, February, March and April 2012 reference months.

Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates produced for the energy sector 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, free of charge.

Table 1
Merchandise trade: Principal trading areas – Seasonally adjusted, current dollars

	March 2011[r]	February 2012[r]	March 2012	February to March 2012	March 2011 to March 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Principal trading areas					
Total exports	**37,264**	**39,636**	**39,489**	**-0.4**	**6.0**
United States	27,002	29,310	28,700	-2.1	6.3
Japan	894	934	1,006	7.7	12.5
European Union[1]	3,359	3,543	3,627	2.4	8.0
Other OECD countries[2]	1,860	1,617	1,537	-4.9	-17.4
All other countries	4,149	4,232	4,619	9.1	11.3
Total imports	**37,514**	**39,363**	**39,138**	**-0.6**	**4.3**
United States	22,768	24,421	24,082	-1.4	5.8
Japan	764	955	1,050	9.9	37.4
European Union[1]	3,897	3,665	3,768	2.8	-3.3
Other OECD countries[2]	3,171	3,087	3,195	3.5	0.8
All other countries	6,914	7,234	7,044	-2.6	1.9
Trade balance	**-250**	**273**	**351**	**...**	**...**
United States	4,234	4,889	4,618	...	...
Japan	130	-21	-44	...	...
European Union[1]	-538	-122	-141	...	...
Other OECD countries[2]	-1,311	-1,470	-1,658	...	...
All other countries	-2,765	-3,002	-2,425	...	...

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. Effective February 2012, Chile and Israel are included in "Other OECD countries."
Note(s): *Totals may not equal the sum of their components.*

Table 2
Merchandise trade: Principal commodity groupings – Seasonally adjusted, current dollars

	March 2011[r]	February 2012[r]	March 2012	February to March 2012	March 2011 to March 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	**37,264**	**39,636**	**39,489**	**-0.4**	**6.0**
Agricultural and fishing products	3,101	3,553	3,539	-0.4	14.1
Energy products	9,228	10,821	9,857	-8.9	6.8
Forestry products	1,989	1,776	1,771	-0.3	-11.0
Industrial goods and materials	9,491	9,330	9,910	6.2	4.4
Machinery and equipment	6,528	6,670	6,899	3.4	5.7
Automotive products	4,745	5,372	5,333	-0.7	12.4
Other consumer goods	1,316	1,235	1,378	11.6	4.7
Special transactions trade[1]	371	357	313	-12.3	-15.6
Other balance of payments adjustments	495	522	489	-6.3	-1.2
Total imports	**37,514**	**39,363**	**39,138**	**-0.6**	**4.3**
Agricultural and fishing products	2,676	2,759	2,829	2.5	5.7
Energy products	4,658	5,018	4,272	-14.9	-8.3
Forestry products	192	205	214	4.4	11.5
Industrial goods and materials	7,845	8,445	8,107	-4.0	3.3
Machinery and equipment	10,202	10,547	10,793	2.3	5.8
Automotive products	5,971	6,252	6,543	4.7	9.6
Other consumer goods	4,751	4,826	4,947	2.5	4.1
Special transactions trade[1]	419	467	582	24.6	38.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	800	844	850	0.7	6.3

r revised
1. These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.
Note(s): *Totals may not equal the sum of their components.*

Available without charge in 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 subsector, for all countries; monthly, quarterly and annual.

The 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 United States trade, and Standard International Trade Classification (SITC revision 3) price indexes for all countries and 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 subsector, 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 2201, 2202 and 2203.

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

The March 2012 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 66, 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 8.

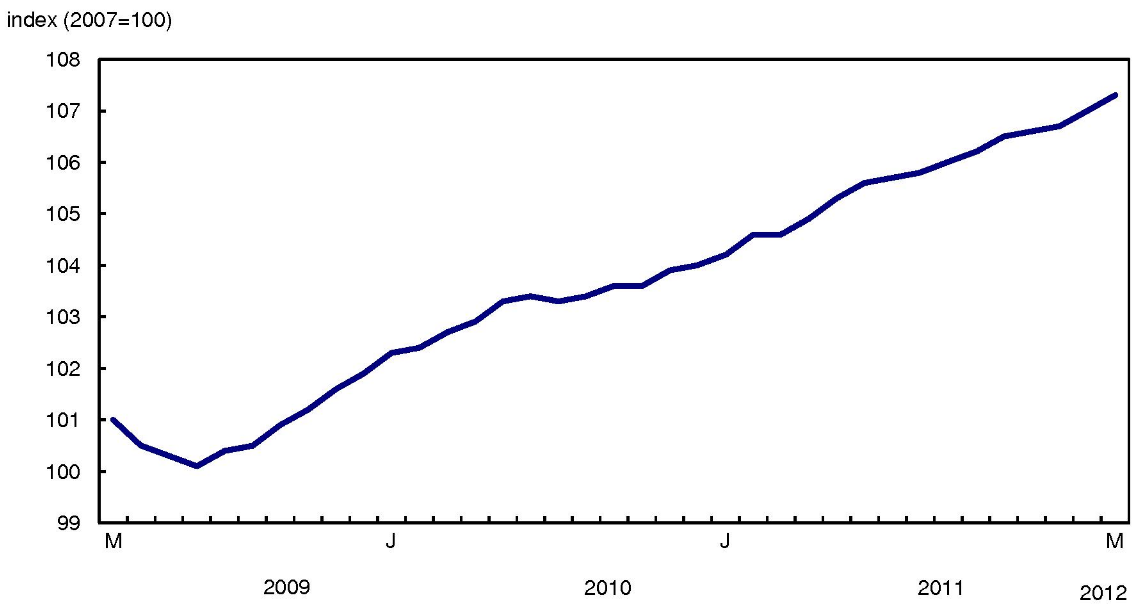
For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre
(toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marc Nadeau (613-951-3692), International Trade Division.

New Housing Price Index, March 2012

The New Housing Price Index (NHPI) rose 0.3% in March, following a similar increase in February.

Chart 1
Evolution of the New Housing Price Index



The metropolitan regions of Toronto and Oshawa, Edmonton, and Calgary were the top contributors to the increase in March. The positive impact of these regions on the overall index was slightly offset by the decreases observed in Vancouver and Victoria.

In Toronto and Oshawa, the rise in prices was predominantly explained by good market conditions and increased demand.

In Edmonton, builders reported increased material and labour costs and in Calgary, improving market conditions were given as a reason for the increase.

From February to March, Winnipeg (+0.7%) posted the largest monthly price advance, followed by Toronto and Oshawa (+0.6%).

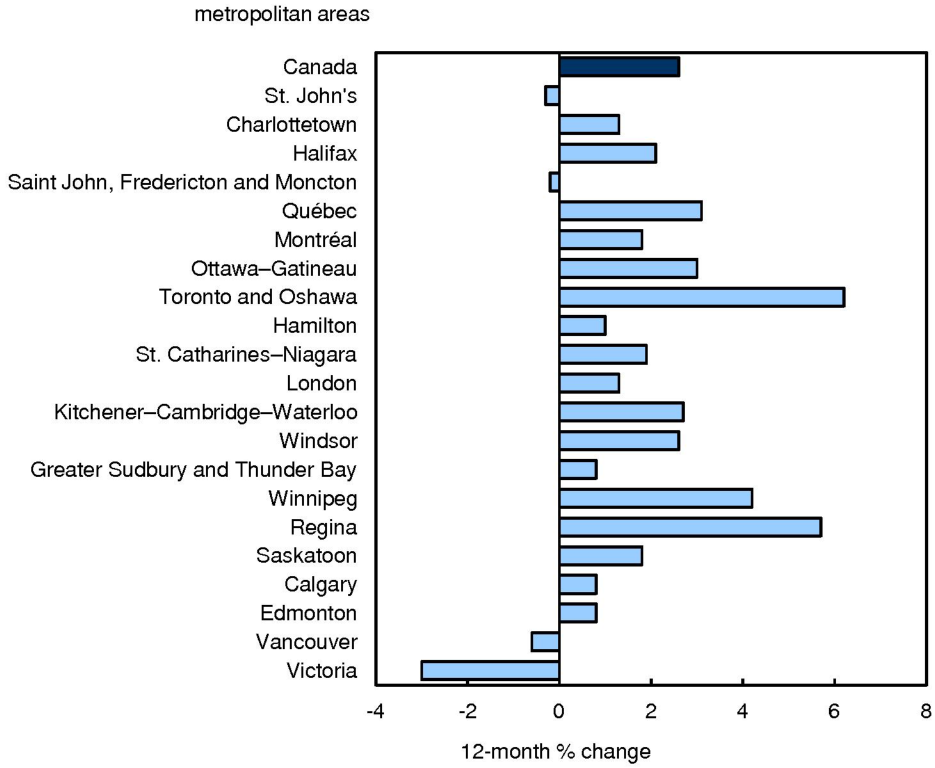
In Winnipeg, price increases were primarily the result of higher land development costs as well as increased material and labour costs.

Other notable increases were observed in Québec and Ottawa–Gatineau (both +0.5%).

In March, prices were unchanged in 7 of the 21 metropolitan regions surveyed.

The most significant monthly price decline was recorded in Victoria (-0.7%), as builders reduced their prices as a result of competitive market conditions.

Chart 2
Toronto and Oshawa posts the highest year-over-year price increase



Year over year, the NHPI was up 2.6%, following a 2.3% increase the previous month. The main contributor to the advance was the metropolitan region of Toronto and Oshawa.

The largest year-over-year price increases were recorded in Toronto and Oshawa (+6.2%), Regina (+5.7%) and Winnipeg (+4.2%).

Other significant year-over-year increases in contractors' selling prices were observed in Québec (+3.1%) and Ottawa–Gatineau (+3.0%).

Among the 21 metropolitan regions surveyed, 4 posted 12-month price declines in March, with Victoria (-3.0%) posting the largest decrease.

Note to readers

The New Housing Price Index 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, such as the Federal Goods and Services Tax or the Harmonized Sales Tax.

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

Table 1
New Housing Price Indexes – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance[1]	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	February to March 2012	March 2011 to March 2012
	%	(2007=100)			% change	
Canada total	**100.00**	**104.6**	**107.0**	**107.3**	**0.3**	**2.6**
House only	**...**	**104.5**	**107.1**	**107.5**	**0.4**	**2.9**
Land only	**...**	**104.3**	**106.1**	**106.3**	**0.2**	**1.9**
St. John's	1.99	147.2	146.2	146.7	0.3	-0.3
Charlottetown	0.25	101.5	102.8	102.8	0.0	1.3
Halifax	1.25	111.6	113.9	113.9	0.0	2.1
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton[2]	0.67	108.2	108.0	108.0	0.0	-0.2
Québec	2.98	117.2	120.2	120.8	0.5	3.1
Montréal	10.79	113.2	115.1	115.2	0.1	1.8
Ottawa–Gatineau	5.67	111.6	114.4	115.0	0.5	3.0
Toronto and Oshawa[2]	26.56	108.7	114.7	115.4	0.6	6.2
Hamilton	3.08	103.9	104.7	104.9	0.2	1.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	1.01	103.9	105.5	105.9	0.4	1.9
London	1.58	107.5	108.9	108.9	0.0	1.3
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	2.32	106.5	109.4	109.4	0.0	2.7
Windsor	0.50	96.2	98.7	98.7	0.0	2.6
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay[2]	0.62	105.4	106.1	106.2	0.1	0.8
Winnipeg	2.28	122.7	126.9	127.8	0.7	4.2
Regina	0.99	145.1	153.3	153.3	0.0	5.7
Saskatoon	1.76	115.9	118.1	118.0	-0.1	1.8
Calgary	10.84	95.4	95.9	96.2	0.3	0.8
Edmonton	11.99	89.8	90.1	90.5	0.4	0.8
Vancouver	11.48	98.7	98.2	98.1	-0.1	-0.6
Victoria	1.39	88.8	86.7	86.1	-0.7	-3.0

... 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(s): *View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.*

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 327-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The first quarter 2012 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available in July.

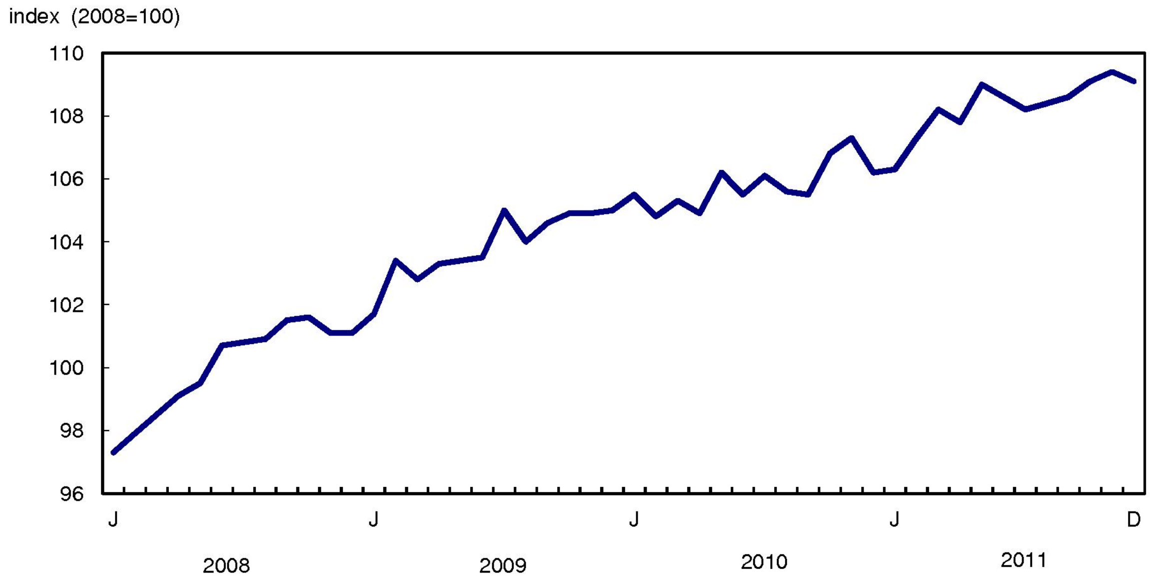
The new housing price indexes for April will be released on June 14.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Retail Services Price Index, fourth quarter 2011

The Retail Services Price Index (RSPI) rose 0.7% in the fourth quarter compared with the previous quarter.

Chart 1
Retail Services Price Index



General merchandise (+3.4%), food and beverage (+2.2%), building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (+0.8%) and clothing and clothing accessories (+0.8%) stores all recorded margin increases in the fourth quarter.

Margin increases were moderated by declines in 6 of the 10 retail sectors. The largest margin decreases were posted by electronics and appliance stores (-3.8%) and gasoline stations (-1.2%).

Year over year, the RSPI was up 2.2%. General merchandise stores (+4.3%) posted the largest year-over-year margin increases. Other sectors that reported year-over-year margin increases included food and beverage stores (+3.6%) and gasoline stations (+3.6%). For the fifth consecutive quarter, year-over-year margins for electronics and appliance stores (-7.3%) declined.

Note to readers

Data for the most recent quarter are preliminary. The previous quarter of the series is subject to revision. The series is also subject to an annual revision released with second quarter data of the following reference year. The indexes are not seasonally adjusted.

The Retail Services Price Index (RSPI) is part of the Services Producer Price Index program at Statistics Canada. The RSPI is not a retail selling price index. The index represents the change in the price of the retail service. The price of the retail service is defined as the margin price, which is the difference between the average purchase price and the average selling price of the retail product being priced.

Table 1
Retail Services Price Index – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance[1]	Fourth quarter 2010	Third quarter 2011[r]	Fourth quarter 2011[p]	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2011	Fourth quarter 2010 to fourth quarter 2011
	%	(2008=100)			% change	
Retail Services Price Index	**100.00**	**106.8**	**108.4**	**109.2**	**0.7**	**2.2**
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	1.53	.[2]	.[2]	.[2]	.[2]	.[2]
Furniture and home furnishings stores	3.33	103.2	104.5	103.7	-0.8	0.5
Electronics and appliance stores	3.42	93.4	90.0	86.6	-3.8	-7.3
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	5.97	111.8	113.9	114.8	0.8	2.7
Food and beverage stores	21.81	110.4	111.9	114.4	2.2	3.6
Health and personal care stores	6.68	111.0	111.2	110.3	-0.8	-0.6
Gasoline stations	11.52	101.4	106.4	105.1	-1.2	3.6
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	5.24	100.0	100.2	101.0	0.8	1.0
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	2.48	103.0	102.5	101.7	-0.8	-1.3
General merchandise stores	11.47	108.7	109.7	113.4	3.4	4.3
Miscellaneous store retailers	2.56	108.8	109.8	109.1	-0.6	0.3

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. not available for any reference period

1. The relative importance is based on the weight that each three-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) contributes to the overall Retail Services Price Index. The total does not equal 100 as automobile dealers (NAICS 4411), other motor vehicle dealers (NAICS 4412) and non-store retailers (NAICS 454) were not surveyed.

2. Automobile dealers (NAICS 4411) and other motor vehicle dealers (NAICS 4412) have not been surveyed and therefore data are not available at this time.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 332-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5135.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Export and import price indexes, March 2012

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 2012 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 2012. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 228-0047 to 228-0055.

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 subsector; for all countries, monthly, quarterly and annual.

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

The March 2012 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 66, no. 3 (65-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for April will be released on June 8.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Chain Fisher real export and import values, March 2012

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

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 228-0056 and 228-0057.

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 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The March 2012 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 66, no. 3 (65-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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