

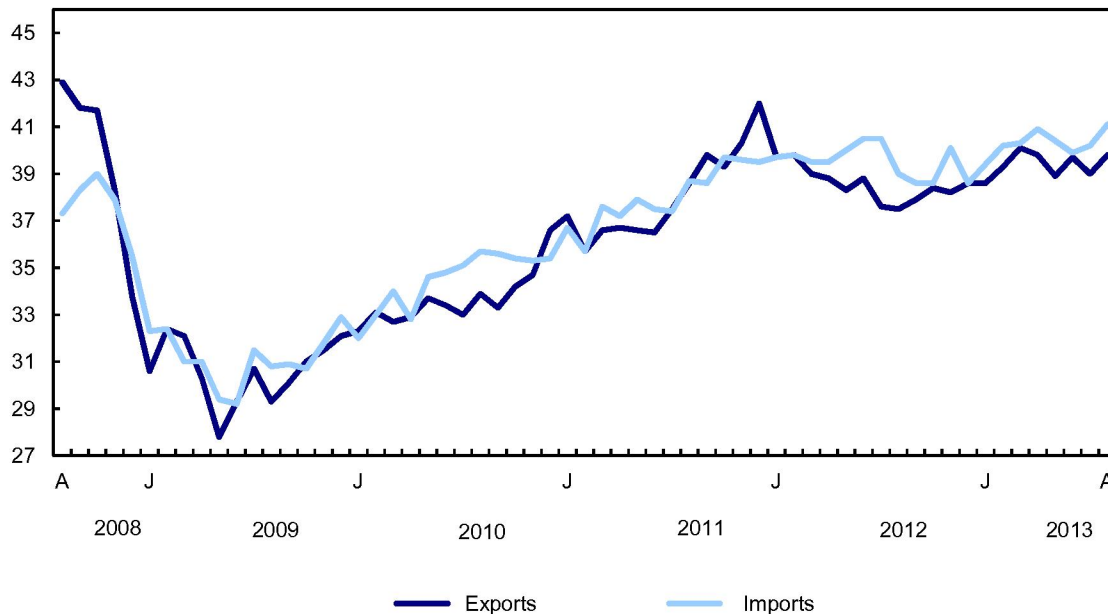
# Canadian international merchandise trade, August 2013

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Canada's merchandise imports grew 2.1% in August, while exports were up 1.8%. As a result, Canada's trade deficit with the world went from \$1.2 billion in July to \$1.3 billion in August.

## Chart 1 Exports and imports

billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



Imports grew to \$41.1 billion, led by energy products, aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts, and motor vehicles and parts. Overall, volumes rose 1.2% and prices were up 0.9%.

Exports increased to \$39.8 billion, as volumes grew 1.4% and prices edged up 0.4%. Energy products and metal and non-metallic mineral products were the main contributors to the increase in exports.

Exports to the United States increased 1.9% to \$30.1 billion, their highest value since December 2011. Imports from the United States edged up 0.1% to \$26.1 billion. Consequently, Canada's trade surplus with the United States widened from \$3.4 billion in July to \$4.0 billion in August.

Imports from countries other than the United States rose 5.8% to \$14.9 billion, on the strength of imports of crude oil and crude bitumen. Exports to countries other than the United States increased 1.6% to \$9.7 billion. The principal trading areas "other OECD countries" (+13.0%) and "all other countries" (+3.1%) were the main contributors to this advance. These gains were partially offset by lower exports to the European Union (-7.1%). As a result, Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States widened from \$4.6 billion in July to \$5.3 billion in August.



## Crude oil and crude bitumen as well as aircraft lead increase in imports

Imports of energy products rose 12.5% to \$3.7 billion in August, on the strength of crude oil and crude bitumen (+21.4%), as well as refined petroleum energy products (+18.2%). Imports of these commodities rose on higher volumes. Imports of natural gas, down 25.9% to \$320 million, partially offset the section's increase.

Imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts grew 27.1% to \$1.4 billion, entirely on higher volumes. Following a decline to \$39 million in July, imports of aircraft increased to \$366 million in August.

Imports of motor vehicles and parts rose 1.9% to \$7.2 billion. Passenger cars and light trucks was the main contributor to the increase, rising 6.4% to \$3.1 billion, as volumes grew 6.3%.

Imports of metal ores and non-metallic minerals declined 11.9% to \$874 million, as volumes were down 15.6%. Leading the decrease in imports was other metal ores and concentrates (-12.0%), mainly lead and zinc ores and concentrates, as well as precious metal ores and concentrates, and precious metal bullion.

## Exports rise on higher volumes

Exports of energy products increased for a third consecutive month, rising 4.7% to \$9.6 billion in August. Volumes were up 3.3% and prices increased 1.4%. Crude oil and crude bitumen led the gain in energy products exports, rising 4.4% to \$7.0 billion. Also contributing to the section's growth were refined petroleum energy products as well as other energy products, such as coal.

Exports of metal and non-metallic mineral products rose 8.2% to \$4.5 billion in August, following an 11.7% decline in July. Higher exports of unwrought iron, steel and ferro-alloys, and basic and semi-finished ferrous metal products (+23.0%) as well as unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys (+8.5%) were the main contributors to the gain in August. Overall, volumes were up 6.8%.

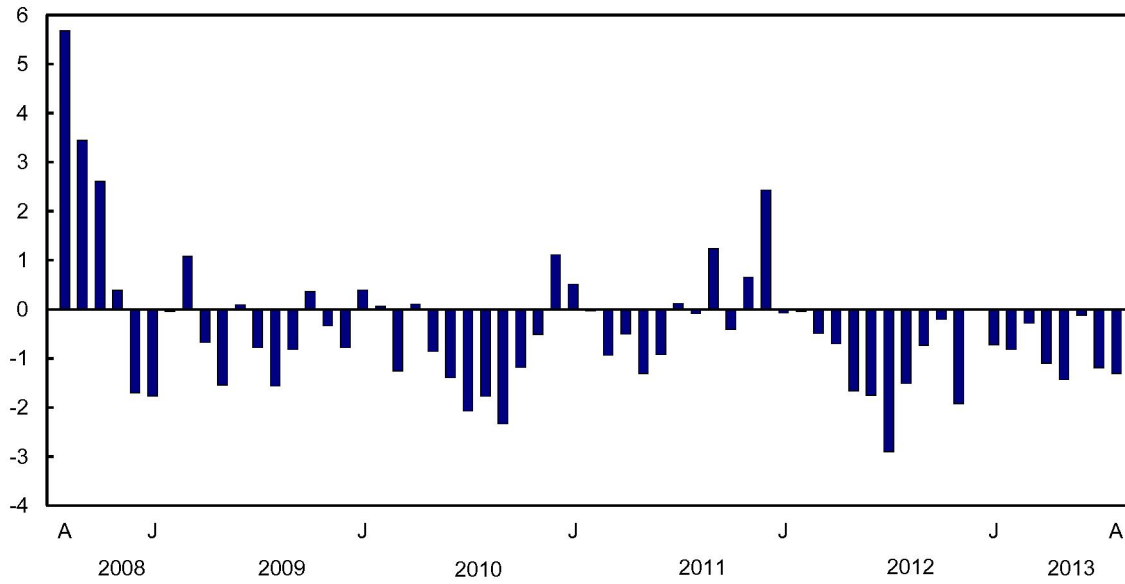
Exports of farm, fishing and intermediate food products fell 10.6% to \$2.1 billion, as all commodity groups recorded decreases. Other crop products, principally oats and corn, led the decline, entirely on lower volumes (-18.4%).

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**Chart 2**  
**Trade balance**

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billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



### **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 (2007=100).*

*For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends](#).*

### **Note regarding current US government shutdown**

*Under a 1990 agreement between Canada and the United States, each country uses the other's import data in lieu of its own export data. While data for the current release (August reference month) are unaffected by the current US government shutdown, a continued shutdown will impede Statistics Canada's ability to release a complete picture of Canadian trade statistics for the September reference period on November 5. Specifically, data on Canadian exports to the United States would be unavailable. Statistics Canada will continue to monitor the situation and will provide further information to users as it becomes available.*

### **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 are revised with the release of the January, February and March reference months. Revisions to BOP based data for the previous four years were released in June with the April reference month.*

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

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

	August 2012	July 2013 <sup>r</sup>	August 2013	July to August 2013	August 2012 to August 2013
	millions of dollars			% change	
<b>Total exports</b>	<b>37,498</b>	<b>39,047</b>	<b>39,769</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>
United States	27,550	29,544	30,116	1.9	9.3
Japan	742	887	888	0.1	19.7
European Union <sup>1</sup>	3,434	2,560	2,379	-7.1	-30.7
Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>	1,537	1,438	1,625	13.0	5.7
All other countries	4,236	4,617	4,761	3.1	12.4
<b>Total imports</b>	<b>39,012</b>	<b>40,237</b>	<b>41,075</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>5.3</b>
United States	24,171	26,105	26,129	0.1	8.1
Japan	859	826	781	-5.4	-9.1
European Union <sup>1</sup>	4,189	3,652	3,710	1.6	-11.4
Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>	2,849	2,960	3,011	1.7	5.7
All other countries	6,944	6,694	7,443	11.2	7.2
<b>Trade balance</b>	<b>-1,514</b>	<b>-1,190</b>	<b>-1,306</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>
United States	3,379	3,439	3,986	...	...
Japan	-117	62	107	...	...
European Union <sup>1</sup>	-755	-1,092	-1,331	...	...
Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>	-1,312	-1,522	-1,386	...	...
All other countries	-2,708	-2,077	-2,682	...	...

<sup>r</sup> 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. Effective July 2013, Croatia is included in "European Union".

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

**Note(s):** Totals may not equal the sum of their components.

**Table 2**  
**Merchandise trade: North American Product Classification<sup>1</sup>– Seasonally adjusted, current dollars**

	August 2012	July 2013 <sup>r</sup>	August 2013	July to August 2013	August 2012 to August 2013
	millions of dollars			% change	
<b>Total exports</b>	<b>37,498</b>	<b>39,047</b>	<b>39,769</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	2,167	2,298	2,054	-10.6	-5.2
Energy products	8,089	9,131	9,561	4.7	18.2
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	1,371	1,353	1,453	7.4	6.0
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	4,561	4,184	4,528	8.2	-0.7
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	2,643	2,862	2,903	1.4	9.8
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	2,592	2,834	2,822	-0.4	8.9
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	2,123	2,214	2,307	4.2	8.7
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	1,894	1,904	1,865	-2.0	-1.5
Motor vehicles and parts	5,795	5,812	5,786	-0.4	-0.1
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,382	1,276	1,338	4.9	-3.2
Consumer goods	4,102	4,321	4,297	-0.6	4.8
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	175	206	188	-8.9	7.0
Other balance of payments adjustments	606	652	667	2.3	10.1
<b>Total imports</b>	<b>39,012</b>	<b>40,237</b>	<b>41,075</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	1,045	1,124	1,074	-4.4	2.8
Energy products	3,843	3,246	3,651	12.5	-5.0
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	800	991	874	-11.9	9.3
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	3,433	3,399	3,363	-1.0	-2.0
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	3,026	3,644	3,554	-2.5	17.5
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	1,729	1,746	1,778	1.8	2.8
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	3,856	3,774	3,867	2.5	0.3
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	4,464	4,674	4,637	-0.8	3.9
Motor vehicles and parts	6,877	7,023	7,158	1.9	4.1
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	920	1,062	1,350	27.1	46.8
Consumer goods	7,774	8,158	8,106	-0.6	4.3
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	428	557	817	46.8	90.8
Other balance of payments adjustments	818	839	845	0.7	3.3

<sup>r</sup> revised

1. International merchandise trade data are based on the North American Product Classification System 2007.

2. 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 in CANSIM: tables 228-0058 to 228-0068.**

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

These data are now available in the *Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database* (65F0013X). From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website, choose *Publications*.

The August 2013 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 67, no. 8 (65-001-X), is also now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for September will be released on November 5.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; [infostats@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Alec Forbes (613-951-0325), International Trade Division.