

# Canadian international merchandise trade, September 2015

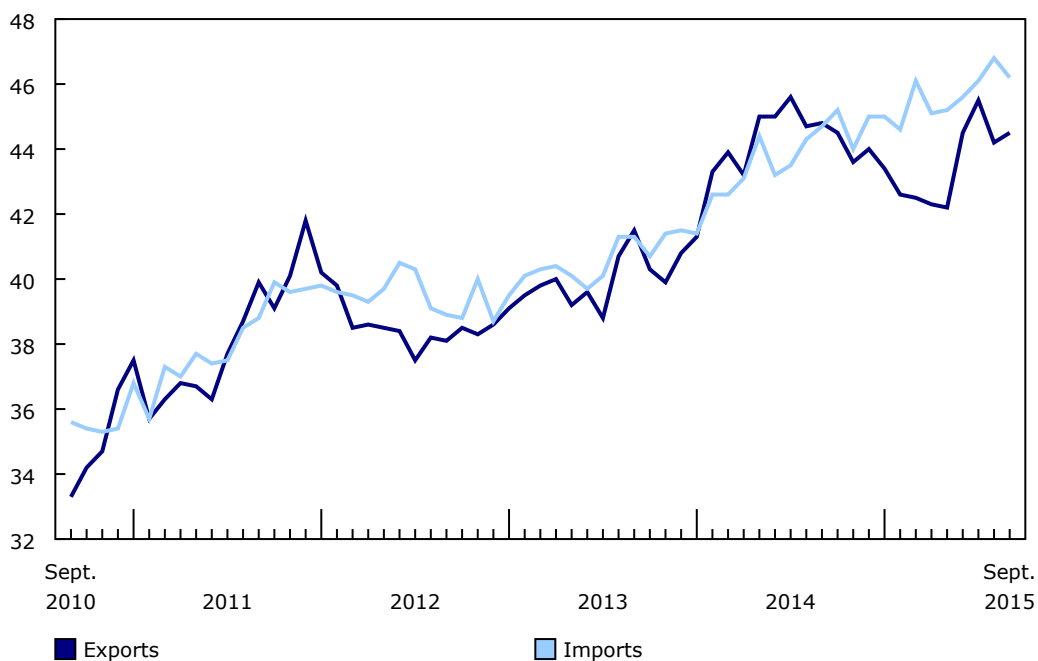
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Canada's imports declined 1.3% in September while exports increased 0.7%. Import volumes fell 2.1% and prices increased 0.8%. For exports, volumes were up 0.7% and prices were unchanged.

Consequently, Canada's merchandise trade deficit with the world narrowed from \$2.7 billion in August to \$1.7 billion in September.

**Chart 1**  
**Merchandise exports and imports**

billions of dollars



**Note(s):** Data are seasonally adjusted.  
**Source(s):** CANSIM table [228-0069](#).

## Trade deficit with non-US countries narrows

Imports from countries other than the United States decreased 3.1% to \$15.5 billion in September, on lower imports from the United Kingdom (-\$430 million). Meanwhile, exports to countries other than the United States increased 4.0% to \$10.6 billion. There were higher exports to Turkey (+\$151 million), Spain (+\$126 million) and India (+\$114 million). Consequently, Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States narrowed from \$5.8 billion in August to \$4.9 billion in September.

Imports from the United States were down 0.4% to \$30.8 billion in September and exports declined 0.3% to \$33.9 billion. As a result, Canada's trade surplus with the United States edged up from \$3.15 billion in August to \$3.17 billion in September.



## Imports down on lower volumes

Following four consecutive monthly increases, total imports declined 1.3% to \$46.2 billion in September. The main contributor to the decrease in imports was metal and non-metallic mineral products. Year over year, total imports were up 3.5%.

Imports of metal and non-metallic mineral products fell 14.3% to \$3.5 billion. Overall, volumes decreased 13.3% and prices were down 1.2%. Imports of unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys declined by \$434 million to reach \$580 million in September, following a \$364 million gain in August. Imports of this commodity grouping tend to fluctuate on a month-to-month basis.

Imports of energy products were down 12.3% to \$2.5 billion in September. The main contributor to the decline was crude oil and crude bitumen, down 19.6% to \$1.2 billion. For the section as a whole, volumes fell 12.1% and prices 0.2%.

Motor vehicles and parts declined 2.7% to \$8.4 billion, following six consecutive monthly increases. Imports of motor vehicle engines and motor vehicle parts were down 6.9% to \$3.5 billion in September. For the section as a whole, imports rose 7.6% year over year on higher prices.

Imports of basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products decreased 5.2% to \$3.8 billion. Overall, volumes declined 8.0% and prices increased 3.1%. Imports of basic chemicals fell \$214 million to \$802 million in September, following a \$179 million increase in August.

In the third quarter, overall imports increased 2.4% from the second quarter. However, in real (or volume) terms, quarterly imports edged down 0.2%.

## Consumer goods and energy products lead the gain in exports

Total exports increased 0.7% to \$44.5 billion in September. Higher exports of consumer goods, energy products, and metal and non-metallic mineral products were moderated by lower exports of motor vehicles and parts. Exports excluding energy products were up 0.2%. Year over year, total exports were down 0.7%.

Exports of consumer goods increased 4.6% to \$6.2 billion on higher volumes. Pharmaceutical and medicinal products rose 20.8% to \$1.1 billion in September.

Exports of energy products increased 3.7% to \$7.0 billion in September. The main contributor to the increase was crude oil and crude bitumen, up 2.7% to \$4.6 billion. For the section as a whole, prices increased 4.1% and volumes were down 0.4%.

Metal and non-metallic mineral products were up 3.2% to \$4.7 billion in September. Exports of unwrought copper and copper alloys rose from \$109 million in August to reach \$239 million in September on higher volumes.

Moderating these gains were exports of motor vehicles and parts, which declined 3.7% to \$7.5 billion in September. Widespread decreases in the section were led by passenger cars and light trucks, down 4.9% to \$4.9 billion. For the section as a whole, volumes declined 4.8% and prices were up 1.1%.

Total exports rose 4.0% in the third quarter. In real (or volume) terms, quarterly exports increased 2.9% from the second quarter.

## Revisions to August imports and exports

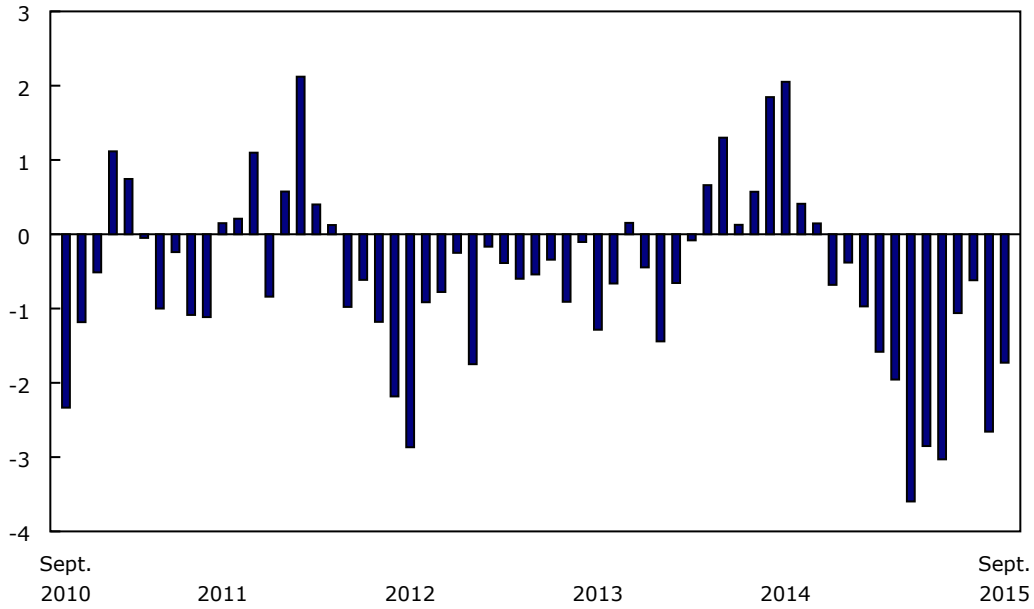
Revisions reflect initial estimates being updated or replaced with administrative and survey data as they became available, as well as corrections made for late documentation of high-value transactions. August's imports, originally reported as \$46.5 billion in last month's release, were revised to \$46.8 billion with the current month release. Exports, originally reported as \$44.0 billion in last month's release, were revised to \$44.2 billion.

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**Chart 2**  
**International merchandise trade balance**

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billions of dollars



**Note(s):** Data are seasonally adjusted.  
**Source(s):** CANSIM table [228-0069](#).

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## 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 trade data by commodity are available on both a BOP and a customs basis. International trade data by country are available on a customs basis for all countries, and on a BOP basis for Canada's 27 principal trading partners (PTPs). The list of PTPs is based on their annual share of total merchandise trade—imports and exports—with Canada in 2012. 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.

For a BOP versus customs-based data conceptual analysis, see [Balance of Payments trade in goods at Statistics Canada: Expanding geographic detail to 27 principal trading partners](#).

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 [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

## 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, March and April reference months. To remain consistent with the Canadian System of macroeconomic accounts, revisions to BOP based data for previous years are released annually in December with the October 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.

For more information on revisions for crude oil and natural gas, see [Revisions to trade data for crude oil and natural gas](#).

Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

## Real-time CANSIM tables

Real-time CANSIM table 228-8059 will be updated on November 16. For more information, consult the document [Real-time CANSIM tables](#).

## Next release

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for October will be released on December 4.

**Table 1**  
**Merchandise trade: Canada's top 10 principal trading partners – Seasonally adjusted, current dollars**

	September 2014	August 2015 <sup>r</sup>	September 2015	August to September 2015	September 2014 to September 2015
	millions of dollars			% change	
<b>Total exports</b>	<b>44,807</b>	<b>44,191</b>	<b>44,508</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
United States	33,525	34,010	33,918	-0.3	1.2
China	1,752	1,901	1,755	-7.7	0.2
Mexico	528	732	665	-9.2	26.0
United Kingdom	1,643	1,058	1,118	5.6	-32.0
Japan	980	827	807	-2.4	-17.7
Germany	338	301	334	10.8	-1.3
South Korea	352	357	347	-2.7	-1.4
Hong Kong	534	343	390	13.6	-26.9
Netherlands	292	294	314	7.0	7.7
France	260	228	280	22.6	7.5
<b>Total imports</b>	<b>44,660</b>	<b>46,848</b>	<b>46,236</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>3.5</b>
United States	30,041	30,864	30,754	-0.4	2.4
China	3,044	3,329	3,346	0.5	9.9
Mexico	1,532	1,523	1,450	-4.8	-5.4
United Kingdom	820	1,071	641	-40.1	-21.8
Japan	765	930	920	-1.0	20.3
Germany	1,177	1,178	1,321	12.1	12.2
South Korea	449	552	573	3.9	27.8
Hong Kong	352	356	364	2.2	3.3
Netherlands	349	387	343	-11.6	-1.8
France	375	366	381	4.1	1.5
<b>Trade balance</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>-2,657</b>	<b>-1,729</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>
United States	3,484	3,147	3,165	...	...
China	-1,292	-1,429	-1,591	...	...
Mexico	-1,004	-790	-785	...	...
United Kingdom	823	-12	476	...	...
Japan	216	-103	-113	...	...
Germany	-839	-877	-987	...	...
South Korea	-96	-195	-226	...	...
Hong Kong	181	-13	26	...	...
Netherlands	-57	-93	-28	...	...
France	-115	-137	-101	...	...

<sup>r</sup> revised

... not applicable

**Note(s):**

Totals do not equal the sum of their components.

Countries listed are the top 10 principal trading partners of Canada based on annual 2013 total merchandise trade data.

**Source(s):** CANSIM table [228-0069](#).

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

	September 2014	August 2015 <sup>r</sup>	September 2015	August to September 2015	September 2014 to September 2015
	millions of dollars			% change	
<b>Total exports</b>	<b>44,807</b>	<b>44,191</b>	<b>44,508</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	2,543	2,719	2,706	-0.4	6.4
Energy products	10,294	6,703	6,951	3.7	-32.5
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	1,613	1,640	1,663	1.4	3.1
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	5,156	4,515	4,661	3.2	-9.6
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	3,030	3,037	2,978	-2.0	-1.7
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	3,144	3,400	3,383	-0.5	7.6
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	2,443	2,747	2,745	-0.1	12.4
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	2,065	2,384	2,388	0.2	15.7
Motor vehicles and parts	6,385	7,751	7,462	-3.7	16.9
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,905	2,083	2,048	-1.7	7.5
Consumer goods	5,235	5,962	6,235	4.6	19.1
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	190	340	348	2.4	82.8
Other balance of payments adjustments	804	910	941	3.4	17.0
<b>Total imports</b>	<b>44,660</b>	<b>46,848</b>	<b>46,236</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	1,243	1,371	1,414	3.1	13.8
Energy products	3,619	2,828	2,481	-12.3	-31.4
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	940	801	860	7.4	-8.5
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	3,967	4,097	3,513	-14.3	-11.4
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	3,590	3,993	3,785	-5.2	5.4
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	1,978	2,096	2,054	-2.0	3.9
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	4,419	4,495	4,503	0.2	1.9
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	5,176	5,295	5,457	3.0	5.4
Motor vehicles and parts	7,820	8,646	8,413	-2.7	7.6
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,534	1,613	1,741	8.0	13.5
Consumer goods	8,869	10,103	10,247	1.4	15.5
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	617	626	881	40.6	42.6
Other balance of payments adjustments	888	883	888	0.5	-0.1

<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.

**Source(s):** CANSIM table [228-0059](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [228-0059](#) to [228-0069](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [2201](#), [2202](#) and [2203](#).

Customs based 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 September 2015 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 69, no. 9 ([65-001-X](#)), is also available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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