

Canadian international merchandise trade, May 2022

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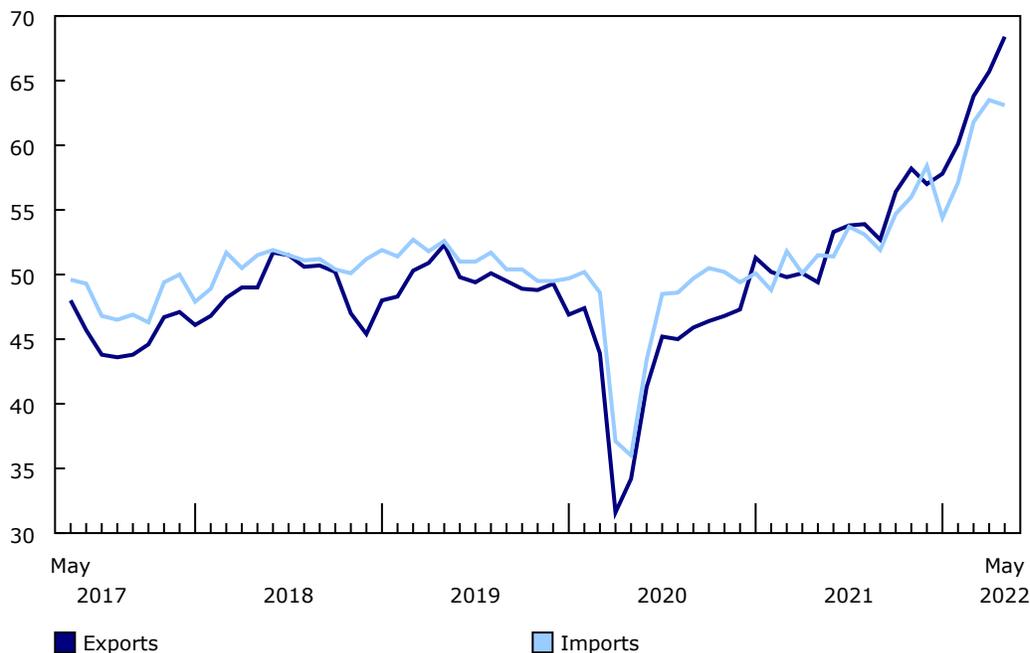
In May, Canada's merchandise exports rose 4.1% compared with April, a fifth consecutive monthly increase. Meanwhile, imports decreased 0.7%. As a result, Canada's merchandise trade surplus with the world widened from \$2.2 billion in April to \$5.3 billion in May, the largest trade surplus since August 2008.

The contribution of prices to monthly movements was once again noteworthy in the merchandise trade results for May. As seen in previous months, variations in real (or volume) terms were significantly different from those in nominal terms observed in May. Export volumes increased 1.7%, while import volumes decreased 1.4% compared with April.

Consult the "[International trade monthly interactive dashboard](#)" to explore the most recent results of Canada's international trade in an interactive format.

Chart 1 Merchandise exports and imports

billions of current dollars



Note(s): Data are on a balance-of-payments basis and are seasonally adjusted.

Source(s): Table 12-10-0121-01.

Rise in exports led by crude oil and aircraft

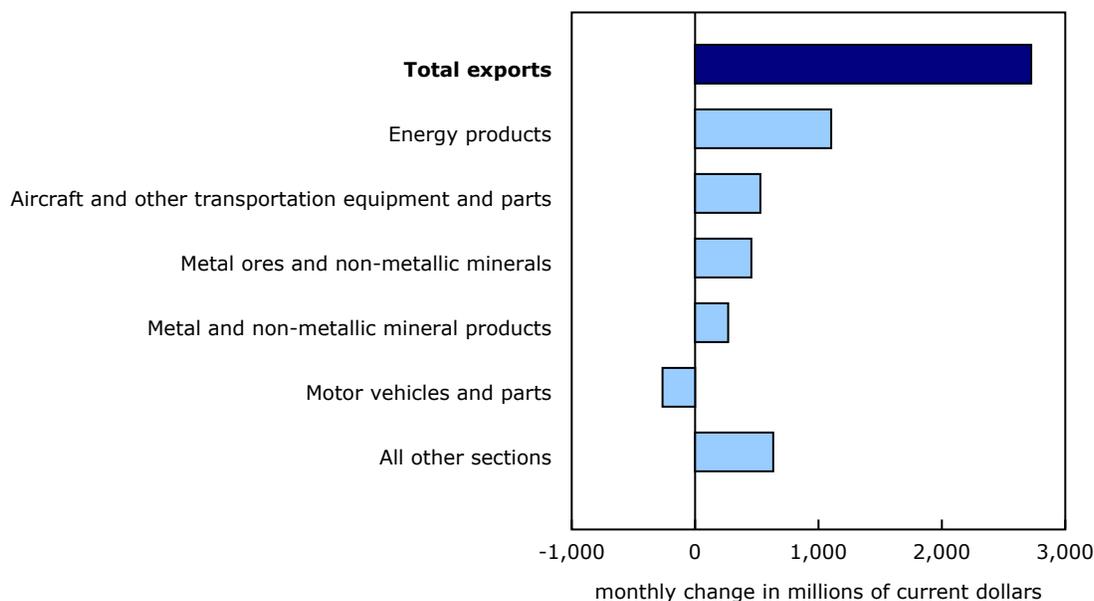
Total exports rose 4.1% in May to \$68.4 billion. This was the fifth consecutive monthly increase and the 10th gain over the past 12 months. Overall, growth was observed in 8 of the 11 product sections in May. Since the beginning of 2022, the value of exports has risen by more than 20%, but, once adjusted for prices, exports were down 2.3% in real (or volume) terms.



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Chart 2
Contribution to the monthly change in exports, by product, May 2022

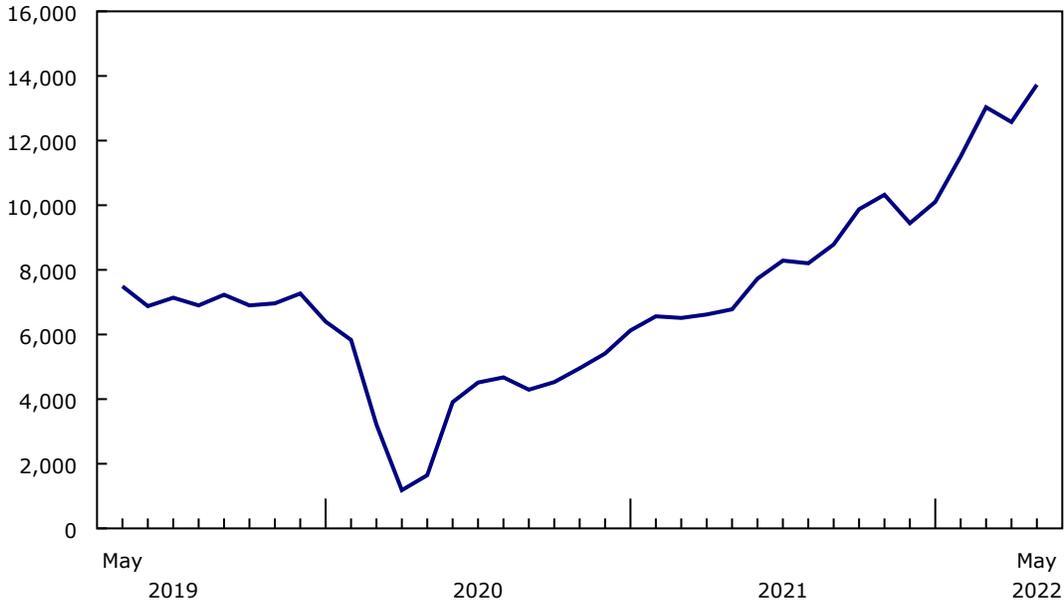


Note(s): Data are on a balance-of-payments basis and are seasonally adjusted.
Source(s): Table 12-10-0121-01.

In May, exports of energy products increased 5.7% to \$20.4 billion, representing 29.8% of total exports, an all-time high. Exports of crude oil and bitumen (+9.2%) rose the most in May, the result of higher prices. As explained in the most recent release on the [Industrial Product Price Index](#), uncertainty about supply, in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, is behind the recent rise in crude oil prices. Export prices for crude oil have almost doubled since May 2021. Despite the importance of energy products to the gain in total exports, non-energy exports were up 3.5% in May 2022.

Chart 3
Canadian exports of crude oil and bitumen

millions of current dollars



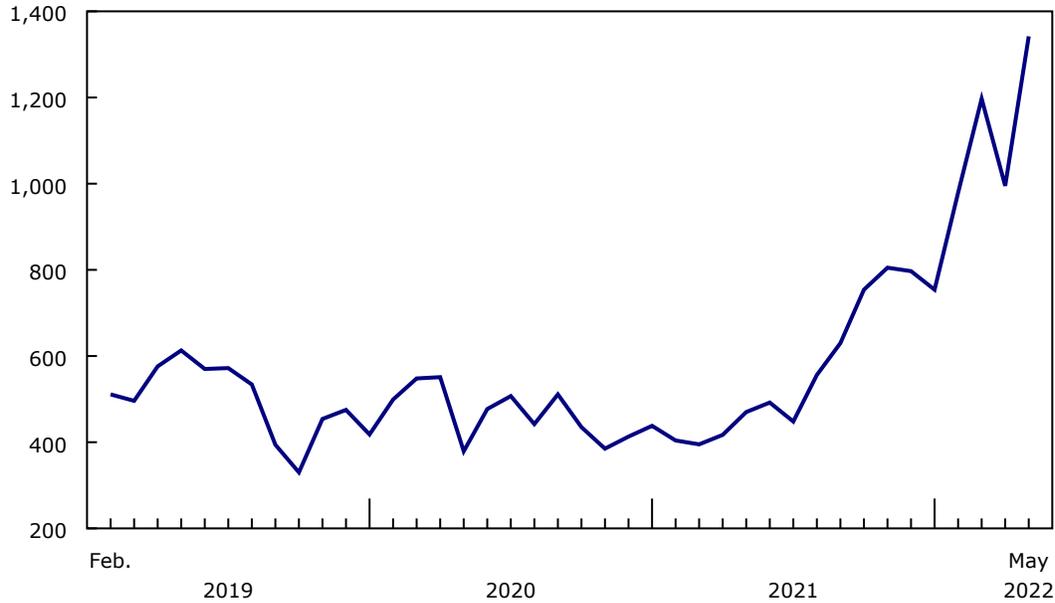
Note(s): Data are on a balance-of-payments basis and are seasonally adjusted.
Source(s): Table 12-10-0121-01.

In May, exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts rose 34.2% compared with April. Following a decrease of \$489 million in April, exports of aircraft (+\$524 million) were the main contributor to the monthly gain in the product section. The increase in exports of aircraft in May was mainly attributable to higher exports of business jets to the United States.

Exports of metal ores and non-metallic minerals rose 17.2% in May to reach a record-high \$3.1 billion. Exports of potash (+34.9%) led the increase, partly because of a large gain in exports to Brazil. Russia is the largest exporter of fertilizers in the world, and amid the conflict in Ukraine, demand for fertilizer products exported by other countries has risen, leading to record-high exports of Canadian potash. Exports of copper ores and concentrates (+74.4%) also increased in May, mainly on higher exports to South Korea.

Chart 4 Canadian exports of potash

millions of current dollars

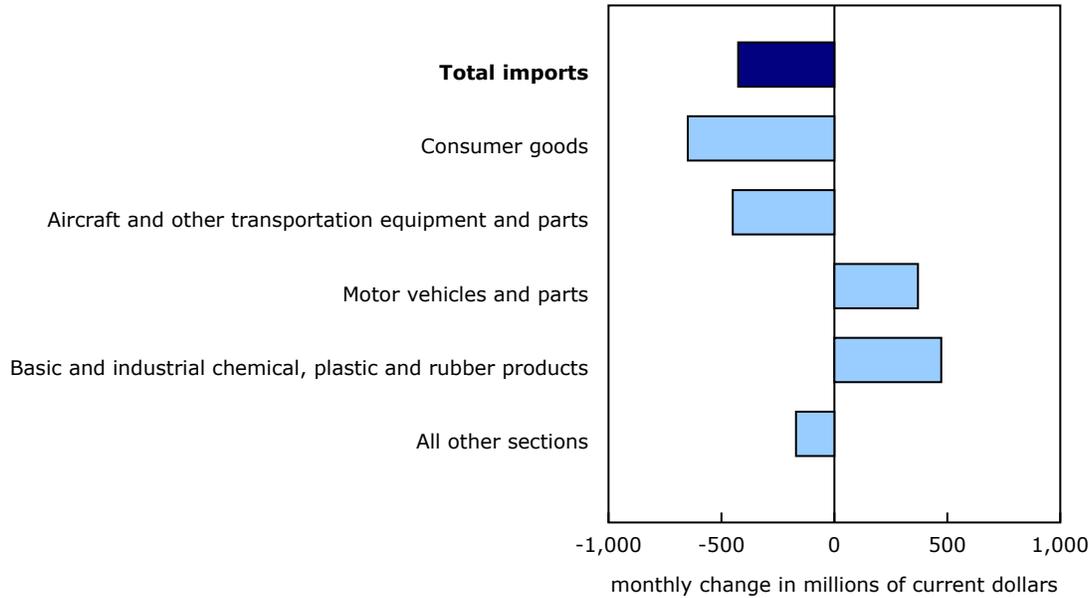


Note(s): Data are on a balance-of-payments basis and are seasonally adjusted.
Source(s): Table [12-10-0121-01](#).

Imports of consumer goods post the largest decrease

Following three consecutive monthly increases, total imports decreased 0.7% in May to \$63.1 billion. Declines were observed in 6 of the 11 product sections.

Chart 5
Contribution to the monthly change in imports, by product, May 2022

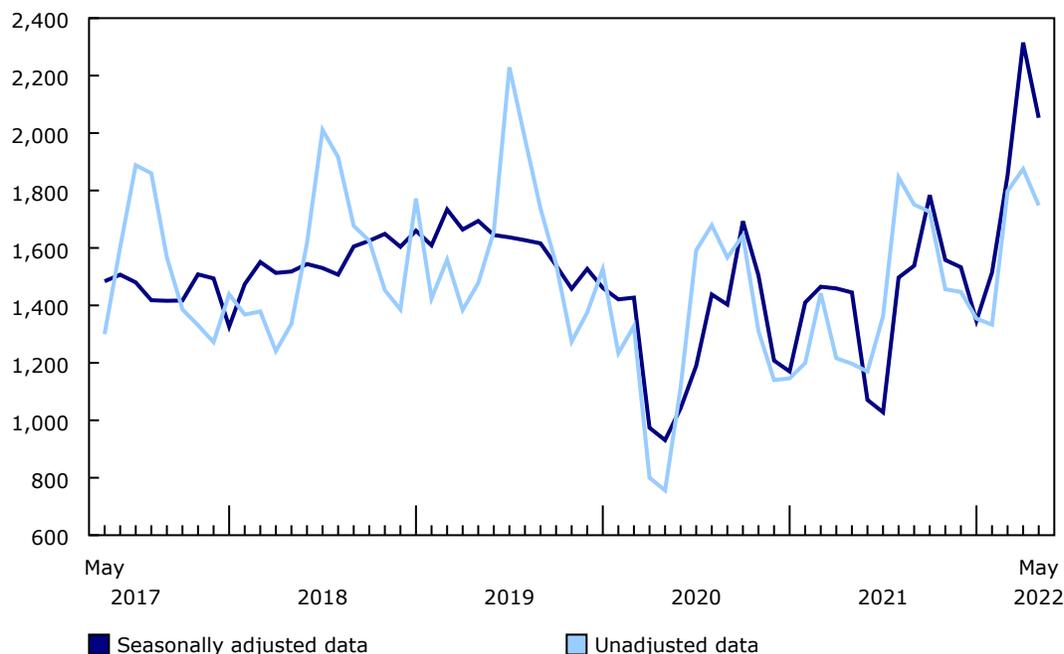


Note(s): Data are on a balance-of-payments basis and are seasonally adjusted.
Source(s): Table 12-10-0121-01.

After an increase of 5.7% in April, imports of consumer goods fell 4.7% in May. As was the case in recent months, the clothing, footwear and accessories (-11.3%) product group was the largest contributor to the monthly decrease. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, several factors, including supply chain issues, have led Canadian retailers to adjust their inventory management strategies and, therefore, their import practices. This has altered the usual seasonal pattern for imports in this category and resulted in large monthly variations on a seasonally adjusted basis. Imports of clothing, footwear and accessories are up 33.9% since the beginning of 2022, despite the decline observed in May. Imports of pharmaceutical and medicinal products (-5.9%) also contributed to the May decline in consumer goods.

Chart 6
Canadian imports of clothing, footwear and accessories on a seasonally adjusted and unadjusted basis

millions of current dollars



Note(s): Data are on a balance-of-payments basis.
Source(s): Table 12-10-0121-01.

In May, imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts were down 22.7% compared with April. Following three consecutive monthly increases, imports of aircraft (-68.4%) decreased, contributing the most to the decrease in the product section. In May, there were lower imports of commercial airliners from the United States.

The increase in imports of basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products (+8.6%) partly offset the decrease in total imports in May. Imports of basic chemicals (+31.2%), which declined sharply in April, posted the largest gain. This is the third large increase in four months for imports of these products. Recent movements in this product category have been largely driven by imports of pharmaceutical ingredients from Ireland.

Trade surplus with the United States widens for fifth consecutive month

Exports to the United States increased by 2.4% in May, largely because of higher exports of crude oil. Meanwhile, imports from the United States edged up 0.3%. As a result, Canada's trade surplus with the United States widened from \$12.9 billion in April to \$14.0 billion in May, another record high.

When the average exchange rates of April and May are compared, the Canadian dollar lost 1.4 US cents relative to the American dollar.

Exports to countries other than the United States reach a record high

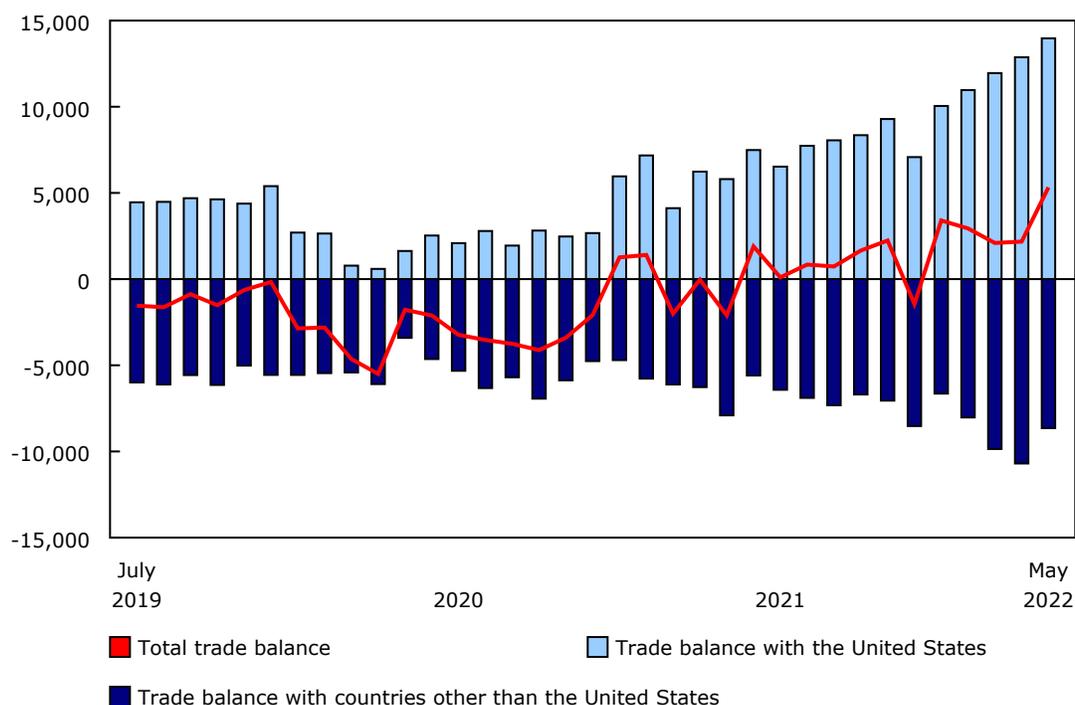
In May, exports to countries other than the United States were up 10.6% compared with April, reaching a record-high \$15.5 billion. Exports to the United Kingdom (+74.2%) posted the largest gain, led by increased exports of crude oil and gold.

Imports from countries other than the United States were down 2.3% in May. Imports from China were again largely behind the downward movement, amid lockdowns in some parts of the country because of COVID-19 outbreaks. There were also lower imports from Mexico and Japan, both down on lower imports of passenger cars and light trucks.

Following the record \$10.7 billion deficit observed in April, the merchandise trade deficit with countries other than the United States narrowed to \$8.6 billion in May.

Chart 7
International merchandise trade balance

millions of current dollars



Note(s): Data are on a balance-of-payments basis and are seasonally adjusted.
Source(s): Table 12-10-0011-01.

Revisions to April merchandise export and import data

Imports in April, originally reported at \$62.8 billion in the previous release, were revised to \$63.5 billion in the release for the current reference month. Exports in April, originally reported at \$64.3 billion in the previous release, were revised to \$65.7 billion, mainly because estimates for crude oil exports were replaced with actual data. These estimates can be subject to larger revisions during times of high volatility in energy prices.

Monthly trade in services

In May, [monthly service exports](#) rose 1.7% to \$12.4 billion. Meanwhile, service imports increased 0.5% to \$13.5 billion.

When international trade in goods and international trade in services were combined, exports increased 3.8% to \$80.8 billion in May, while imports were down 0.5% to \$76.7 billion. As a result, Canada's trade surplus with the world went from \$900 million in April to \$4.2 billion in May.

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

For more information on these and other macroeconomic concepts, see the *Methodological Guide: Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts (13-607-X)* and the *User Guide: Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts (13-606-G)*.

The data in this release are on a BOP basis and are seasonally adjusted. Unless otherwise stated, values are expressed in nominal terms, or current dollars. References to prices are based on aggregate Paasche (current-weighted) price indexes (2012=100). Movements within aggregate Paasche prices can be influenced by changes in the share of values traded for specific goods, with sudden shifts in trading patterns—as observed currently with the COVID-19 pandemic—sometimes resulting in large movements in Paasche price indexes. Volumes, or constant dollars, are calculated using the Laspeyres formula (2012=100), unless otherwise stated.

For 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-based and the BOP-based data.

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

The previous year's BOP-based data are revised with the release of data for 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 the late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, the replacement of estimates produced for the energy section with actual figures, changes in merchandise classification based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors. The seasonal adjustment parameters are reviewed and updated annually, and applied with the October reference month release.

For information on data revisions for exports of energy products, see [Methodology for Exports of Energy Products within the International Merchandise Trade Program](#).

Revised data are available in the appropriate tables.

Real-time data table

The real-time data table 12-10-0120-01 will be updated on July 18.

Next release

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for June will be released on August 4.

Table 1
Merchandise trade: Canada's 10 principal trading partners – Balance-of-payments basis, seasonally adjusted, current dollars

	May 2021	April 2022 ^r	May 2022	April to May 2022	May 2021 to May 2022
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	49,433	65,712	68,436	4.1	38.4
United States	36,857	51,666	52,898	2.4	43.5
China	2,349	2,022	1,937	-4.2	-17.5
United Kingdom	1,067	1,195	2,082	74.2	95.0
Mexico	706	832	703	-15.4	-0.5
Japan	1,096	1,483	1,614	8.9	47.3
Germany	567	676	575	-14.9	1.5
Switzerland	299	284	242	-14.8	-19.0
South Korea	576	775	877	13.1	52.1
Italy	241	137	245	78.3	1.8
Netherlands	269	489	500	2.1	85.8
Total imports	51,536	63,538	63,112	-0.7	22.5
United States	31,055	38,794	38,927	0.3	25.3
China	4,821	6,269	5,860	-6.5	21.6
United Kingdom	765	960	883	-8.0	15.4
Mexico	1,631	2,139	1,862	-12.9	14.2
Japan	1,172	1,100	870	-20.9	-25.8
Germany	1,272	1,415	1,578	11.5	24.0
Switzerland	505	563	677	20.3	34.0
South Korea	723	984	928	-5.7	28.3
Italy	711	699	717	2.6	0.9
Netherlands	452	627	750	19.6	65.8
Trade balance	-2,103	2,174	5,324	...	...
United States	5,802	12,872	13,970	...	...
China	-2,472	-4,247	-3,922	...	...
United Kingdom	302	235	1,198	...	...
Mexico	-924	-1,307	-1,159	...	...
Japan	-76	383	744	...	...
Germany	-706	-739	-1,002	...	...
Switzerland	-206	-278	-435	...	...
South Korea	-147	-209	-51	...	...
Italy	-470	-562	-472	...	...
Netherlands	-183	-138	-250	...	...

^r revised

... not applicable

Note(s):

Totals may not equal the sum of their components as a result of rounding.

Countries listed are Canada's top 10 principal trading partners based on annual 2020 total merchandise trade data.

Source(s): Table [12-10-0011-01](#).

Table 2

Merchandise trade: North American Product Classification System¹ – Balance-of-payments basis, seasonally adjusted, current dollars

	May 2021	April 2022 ^r	May 2022	April to May 2022	May 2021 to May 2022
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	49,433	65,712	68,436	4.1	38.4
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	3,906	3,824	3,984	4.2	2.0
Energy products	9,489	19,267	20,370	5.7	114.7
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	1,910	2,645	3,100	17.2	62.3
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	5,956	7,175	7,443	3.7	25.0
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	2,995	3,739	3,860	3.2	28.9
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	5,162	5,140	5,286	2.8	2.4
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	2,977	3,595	3,765	4.7	26.5
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	2,165	2,645	2,625	-0.8	21.2
Motor vehicles and parts	5,145	7,003	6,739	-3.8	31.0
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	2,112	1,547	2,076	34.2	-1.7
Consumer goods	6,187	7,550	7,480	-0.9	20.9
Special transactions trade ²	282	307	300	-2.2	6.7
Other balance of payments adjustments	1,146	1,272	1,408	10.6	22.8
Total imports	51,536	63,538	63,112	-0.7	22.5
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	1,899	2,366	2,433	2.8	28.1
Energy products	2,260	4,015	4,080	1.6	80.6
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	1,218	1,615	1,608	-0.5	32.0
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	5,322	5,852	5,769	-1.4	8.4
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	4,303	5,515	5,988	8.6	39.1
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	2,455	3,006	3,028	0.7	23.4
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	5,700	6,956	6,789	-2.4	19.1
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	5,947	6,996	6,895	-1.4	15.9
Motor vehicles and parts	7,165	9,109	9,479	4.1	32.3
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,491	1,983	1,533	-22.7	2.8
Consumer goods	11,665	13,701	13,052	-4.7	11.9
Special transactions trade ²	1,168	1,290	1,327	2.9	13.6
Other balance of payments adjustments	944	1,134	1,130	-0.3	19.7

^r revised

1. International merchandise trade data are based on the 2017 North American Product Classification System.

2. These are mainly low-value transactions, value of repairs to equipment and goods returned to the country of origin.

Note(s): Totals may not equal the sum of their components as a result of rounding.

Source(s): Table 12-10-0121-01.

Table 3
Canada's international trade in goods and services – Balance-of-payments basis, seasonally adjusted, current dollars

	April 2022 ^r	May 2022	April to May 2022
	millions of dollars		% change
Exports			
Goods	65,712	68,436	4.1
Services	12,190	12,401	1.7
Goods and services	77,902	80,837	3.8
Imports			
Goods	63,538	63,112	-0.7
Services	13,465	13,538	0.5
Goods and services	77,003	76,650	-0.5
Balances			
Goods	2,174	5,324	...
Services	-1,274	-1,138	...
Goods and services	899	4,187	...

^r revised

... not applicable

Note(s): Totals may not equal the sum of their components as a result of rounding.

Source(s): Tables [12-10-0011-01](#) and [12-10-0044-01](#).

Available tables: [12-10-0005-01](#), [12-10-0011-01](#), [12-10-0099-01](#), [12-10-0119-01](#), [12-10-0121-01](#) to [12-10-0125-01](#), [12-10-0127-01](#), [12-10-0128-01](#), [12-10-0136-01](#), [12-10-0140-01](#) and [12-10-0144-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [2201](#), [2202](#), [2203](#) and [5295](#).

The product "[International trade monthly interactive dashboard](#)" ([71-607-X](#)) is now available. This new interactive dashboard is a comprehensive analytical tool that presents monthly changes in Canada's international merchandise trade data on a balance-of-payments basis, fully supporting the information presented every month in the *Daily* release.

The product "[The International Trade Explorer](#)" ([71-607-X](#)) is now available online.

The Canadian International Merchandise Trade online database is no longer available. It has been replaced by the [Canadian International Merchandise Trade Web Application](#) ([71-607-X](#)), a modern tool that provides trade data users with a number of enhancements.

The updated "[Canada and the World Statistics Hub](#)" ([13-609-X](#)) is now available online. This product illustrates the nature and extent of Canada's economic and financial relationship with the world using interactive charts and tables. It provides easy access to information on trade, investment, employment and travel between Canada and a number of countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Mexico, China, Japan, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).