

Annual international trade in services, 2022

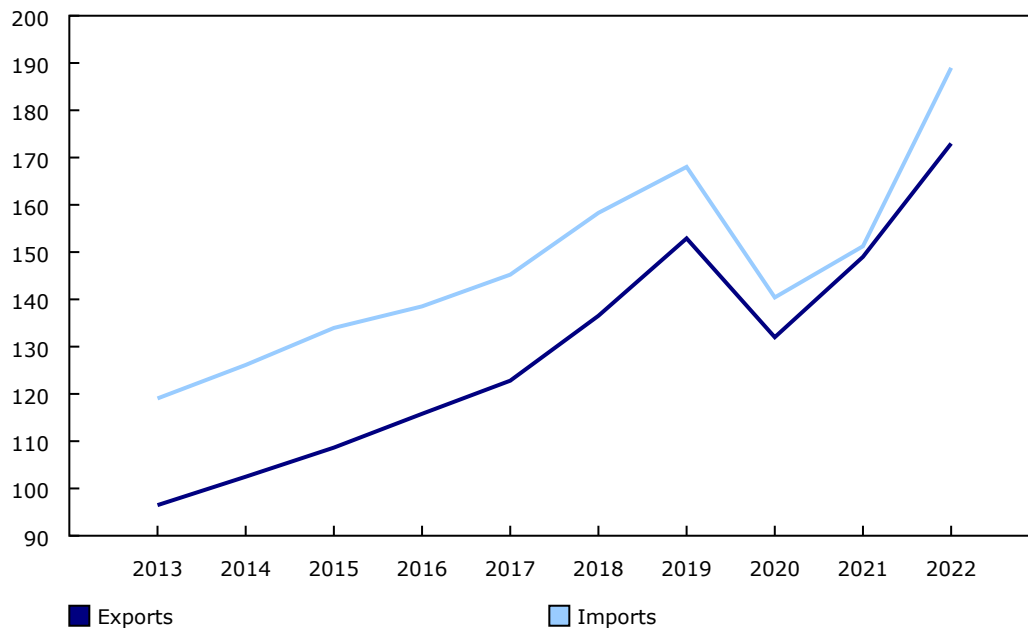
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Friday, November 10, 2023

Canada's exports and imports of services both increased in 2022, led by the strength of the recovery in international travel. Exports of services totalled \$173.0 billion in 2022, a 16.1% gain from 2021, while imports of services into Canada reached \$189.0 billion (+25.0%).

Commercial services imports and exports posted modest gains in 2022, following increases through 2020 and 2021—a resilience facilitated by rapid [digital transformation](#) in industries in Canada and worldwide. Transportation services imports and exports hit record highs in 2022. Passenger fares contributed the most with the recovery in international travel, followed by marine transport, reflecting international demand for goods coupled with cargo and container rates remaining at historic highs well into 2022.

Chart 1 International trade in services

billions of dollars



Source(s): Table 36-10-0007-01.

As a result, Canada's deficit on international transactions in services widened from \$2.2 billion in 2021 to \$16.0 billion in 2022, compared with a deficit of \$15.1 billion in 2019, the year preceding the start of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

International travel increases in 2022

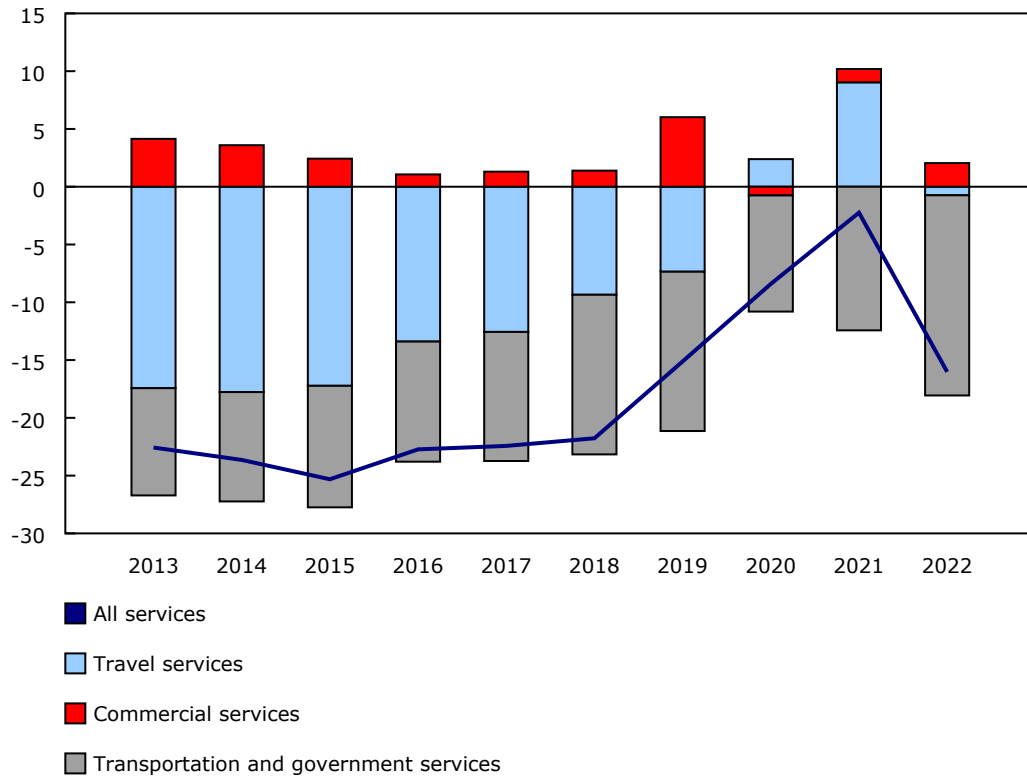
Exports of travel services increased \$17.3 billion to \$36.5 billion in 2022. Exports of travel services to the United States, which rose by \$6.0 billion to \$8.0 billion in 2022, were outpaced by exports to the rest of the world, which rose \$11.2 billion to \$28.5 billion. Personal travel spending in Canada by residents of countries other than the United States—notably France, Great Britain, Mexico, India and China—rose 60.5% to reach \$27.1 billion in 2022, surpassing the 2019 level of \$24.7 billion. As tourism recovered, international students' expenditures in Canada

also increased significantly and accounted for two-thirds of all personal travel export value in 2022, compared with a share of 46% in 2019. Recent estimates show [rising tuition for international students in Canada](#), with a rising cost of living in Canada also pushing up expenses for students.

Imports of travel services rose from \$10.2 billion in 2021 to \$37.3 billion in 2022. Travel services' imports from the United States rose from \$4.5 billion in 2021 to \$22.2 billion in 2022, still below the pre-pandemic high of \$25.3 billion in 2019. Travel expenditures by residents of Canada in all other countries (excluding the United States) reached \$15.1 billion in 2022, up from \$5.7 billion in 2021, but below the \$21.6 billion level in 2019.

Chart 2
Services balances

billions of dollars



Source(s): Tables [36-10-0007-01](#), [36-10-0004-01](#) and [36-10-0006-01](#).

Commercial services continues to post gains

Commercial services hit record high values in 2022. Exports were up 2.3% to \$115.9 billion following a strong performance in 2020 (+5.8%) and 2021 (+15.2%). Commercial services have proven to be a resilient area within international trade for many globalized economies, including Canada. In the face of substantial pressure, business services traders tended toward digitally delivering many services exports throughout the pandemic. Canada's exports of information and communication technology (ICT) services, which include telecommunication services, computer services, and charges for the use of intellectual property related to computer software, were up a further 0.7% to \$26.5 billion in 2022, representing 22.9% of all exports of commercial services. Growth in financial services exports (+10.6%) in 2022 was more pronounced to countries other than the United States (+14.7%) than exports to the United States (+7.4%).

Commercial services imports were up 1.5% in 2022 to \$113.9 billion, following an increase of 13.1% in 2021. The growth in 2022 was especially pronounced for management services from both the United States and overseas, followed by computer services, and research and development products. Imports of overall ICT services totalled \$20.1 billion in 2022, up 2.9% from \$19.5 billion in 2021 and representing 17.6% of all commercial services imports. The increase was concentrated in imports from the United States, as payments to US multinationals for digitally delivered services continued to climb.

Transportation returns to pre-pandemic levels in 2022

Transportation services also reached record highs in 2022. Imports rose 32.8% to \$36.1 billion in 2022, nearly twice the level of exports and 10.6% above 2019 levels. Of the nearly \$9 billion gain in imported transportation services, \$5.5 billion were imports from countries other than the United States. Imports from Hong Kong led the increase, while rising import values from Great Britain, China, Singapore, Germany, Greece, France and the Netherlands also contributed.

Transportation services exports rose 26.9% to \$18.9 billion in 2022 (compared with \$18.5 billion worth of exports in 2019). Transportation services exports to non-US countries increased \$2.4 billion to reach \$9.1 billion in 2022, larger than the rise for exports to the United States (+\$1.6 billion). Exports to Hong Kong reached a record high, as did exports to Singapore and Taiwan. Gains were also observed for France, Great Britain, and Germany, though exports to these countries remained below pre-pandemic levels.

Note to readers

This is the annual release of Canada's detailed international transactions in services. This release contains details by country and service category for international transactions in services. Trade in services covers transactions in travel services, transportation services, a range of business and professional services (referred to as commercial services), and government services.

The results for the 2022 reference year are preliminary and were derived from a combination of the latest 2021 benchmark surveys and 2022 quarterly surveys.

Revisions and coverage

Generally, revisions reflect the integration of the most recent information from surveys and administrative data sources. In this release, revisions were applied to reference years 2020 and 2021.

Table 1
Trade in services by category

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	millions of dollars						
Total services, exports	115,792	122,800	136,526	152,902	131,993	148,997	172,970
Travel services	29,961	32,446	35,391	39,547	18,593	19,237	36,520
Commercial services	67,913	71,292	81,370	92,991	98,391	113,320	115,915
Transportation services	16,317	17,403	18,082	18,581	13,684	14,856	18,849
Government services	1,600	1,658	1,683	1,783	1,325	1,584	1,687
Total services, imports	138,519	145,229	158,295	168,023	140,408	151,241	188,986
Travel services	43,360	45,010	44,740	46,901	16,203	10,202	37,259
Commercial services	66,846	69,988	79,976	86,972	99,144	112,170	113,867
Transportation services	27,018	28,960	32,033	32,616	23,547	27,175	36,078
Government services	1,295	1,271	1,546	1,535	1,514	1,694	1,782
Total services, balances	-22,728	-22,429	-21,769	-15,121	-8,414	-2,244	-16,016
Travel services	-13,399	-12,565	-9,349	-7,354	2,389	9,035	-739
Commercial services	1,067	1,304	1,394	6,019	-752	1,150	2,047
Transportation services	-10,701	-11,556	-13,951	-14,034	-9,863	-12,318	-17,229
Government services	305	388	137	248	-188	-111	-95

Source(s): Tables [36-10-0004-01](#), [36-10-0005-01](#), [36-10-0006-01](#) and [36-10-0007-01](#).

Table 2
Trade in services by region

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	millions of dollars						
All regions, services exports	115,792	122,800	136,526	152,902	131,993	148,997	172,970
United States	63,835	67,753	74,164	81,679	72,124	84,375	93,177
Europe	22,846	22,426	26,527	28,975	24,556	27,270	31,138
Central and East Asia	15,532	17,114	20,179	23,779	19,505	20,241	25,720
All other regions	13,579	15,507	15,656	18,469	15,808	17,111	22,935
All regions, services imports	138,519	145,229	158,295	168,023	140,408	151,241	188,986
United States	75,866	79,251	85,963	92,179	81,133	88,048	111,103
Europe	28,995	31,024	33,413	35,213	28,933	30,958	37,294
Central and East Asia	16,176	16,738	19,722	21,312	16,859	19,781	23,092
All other regions	17,482	18,216	19,197	19,319	13,483	12,454	17,497
All regions, services balances	-22,728	-22,429	-21,769	-15,121	-8,414	-2,244	-16,016
United States	-12,030	-11,498	-11,799	-10,499	-9,009	-3,674	-17,926
Europe	-6,149	-8,598	-6,887	-6,238	-4,376	-3,688	-6,156
Central and East Asia	-643	376	456	2,467	2,645	460	2,628
All other regions	-3,906	-2,709	-3,539	-851	2,326	4,658	5,438

Source(s): Table [36-10-0007-01](#).

Available tables: [12-10-0141-01](#), [12-10-0145-01](#) and [36-10-0004-01](#) to [36-10-0007-01](#) .

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [1536](#).

The updated [Canada and the World Statistics Hub \(13-609-X\)](#) is available online. It illustrates the nature and extent of Canada's economic and financial relationship with the world using interactive charts and tables. This product 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.

The *Methodological Guide: Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts (13-607-X)* is available.

The *User Guide: Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts (13-606-G)* is also available. This publication will be updated to maintain its relevance.

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).