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# International Merchandise Trade

Annual Review  
2010



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# International Merchandise Trade

## Annual Review 2010

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- ... not applicable
- 0 True zero or value rounded to zero

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## Highlights

- Canada exported \$404.6 billion worth of merchandise in 2010, a gain of 9.5% from 2009, led by higher exports of industrial goods and materials.
- Imports increased 10.6% from 2009 to \$413.6 billion in 2010, as volumes rose in all sectors.
- Canada's trade deficit increased from \$4.6 billion in 2009 to \$9.0 billion in 2010. This represented the second straight year in which Canada recorded an annual trade deficit.
- North America accounted for 76.1% of Canada's exports in 2010, down from 87.1% in 2001. During the same period, the share of exports going to Europe and Asia nearly doubled. The share of Canada's exports going to the United States has fallen since 2001 while China's share has tripled during the same period.
- Canada's import from Asia accounted for 20.2% of our imports in 2010, up from 13.6% in 2001. Canada's imports from China totalled \$44.5 billion in 2010 and accounted for over one-half of our imports from Asia. As with exports, the share of Canada's imports from North America declined, from 65.7% in 2001 to 56.8% in 2010.

## Key trends in 2010

### A partial recovery year

Canada's international merchandise trade in 2010 was characterized by increases in both exports and imports as they rebounded from the large decreases recorded in 2009. However, Canada did not return to the levels of trade seen in the years immediately prior to the economic downturn. Larger gains in imports resulted in a trade deficit for the second straight year.

The Canadian dollar rose 4.6% against the US dollar in 2010, appreciating in 9 out of the 12 months. As well, the dollar appreciated against the Euro, rising 15.3%.

Prices of precious metals continued to increase during the year. The prices of gold rose from \$973 to \$1225 (US\$/oz) and silver from \$14.67 in 2009 to \$20.16 in 2010.

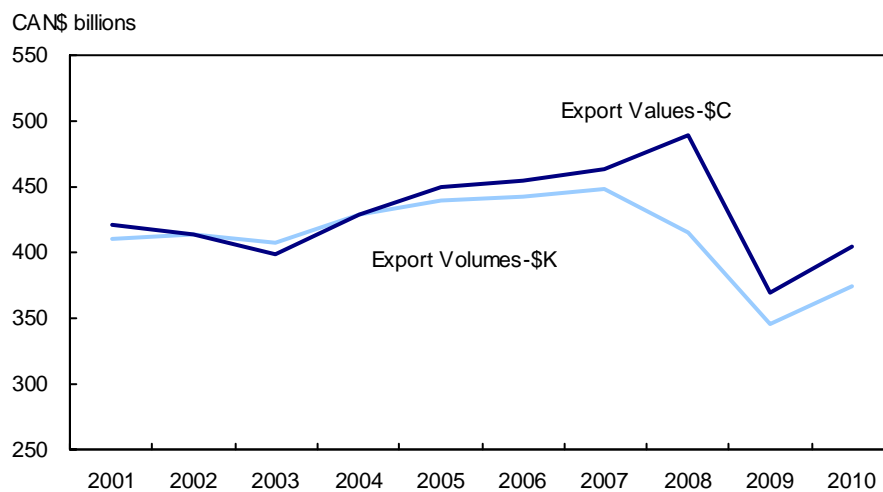
Well into 2010, the economic downturn continued to affect the United States, where economic output only returned to pre-downturn highs in the fourth quarter. While some regions of the United States showed strong decreases in their unemployment rates, overall rates remained above pre-downturn levels.

The 2010 Canadian international merchandise trade annual review is presented in 2 sections. The first provides an overview by sector using balance of payment data. The second provides a snapshot of Canada's trading partners using Customs based data.

### Exports: Industrial goods and materials lead the growth

Canada exported \$404.6 billion worth of merchandise in 2010, up 9.5% from 2009, with the increase occurring mostly in the latter part of the year. This growth was largely the result of volumes rising 8.3% while prices increased 1.1%. Even with these gains, the value of exports remained below those posted from 2004 to 2008.

**Figure 1** Export values and volumes



**Source:** Statistics Canada, International Trade Division.

Exports rose in four of the seven sectors in 2010, led by industrial goods and materials. This sector became the top export sector in 2010, replacing machinery and equipment.



**Table 1** Canada's merchandise exports, 2006 to 2010

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Difference from 2009 to 2010	Difference from 2009 to 2010
	values <sup>1</sup> in billions of current Canadian dollars						%
Agricultural and fishing products	31.5	34.7	40.9	37.3	36.9	-0.4	-1.1
Energy products	86.8	91.3	125.7	79.9	90.7	10.8	13.5
Forestry products	33.4	29.3	25.7	19.5	21.8	2.3	11.8
Industrial goods and materials	94.2	104.8	111.7	79.2	96.5	17.3	21.8
Machinery and equipment	93.3	93.4	93.0	80.4	76.0	-4.4	-5.5
Automotive products	82.0	77.0	61.1	43.8	56.8	13.0	29.7
Other consumer goods	17.8	18.7	18.2	17.9	16.4	-1.5	-8.4
<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>454.0</b>	<b>463.1</b>	<b>490.0</b>	<b>369.5</b>	<b>404.6</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>9.5</b>

1. On a balance-of-payments basis.

2. Total will not be the sum of all commodity groupings, as Special transactions trade and Other balance of payments adjustments are not shown in this table.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, International Trade Division

Exports of industrial goods and materials increased 21.8% from 2009 to \$96.5 billion in 2010: both prices and volumes rose. Widespread gains throughout the sector were led by exports of precious metals, which reached a record high in 2010. These gains reflected the high demand and rising prices for gold and silver on the global market.

Exports of automotive products rose 29.7% from 2009 to \$56.8 billion in 2010, but remained \$41.1 billion below the peak value registered in 2000. The gain in 2010 was a result of volumes increasing 40.4% while prices fell. This marked the sixth price decrease in the past eight years, while the rise in volumes followed four consecutive years of declines. Exports of passenger autos were the main factor behind the increase in the sector followed by exports of motor vehicle parts which grew after seven straight years of declines.

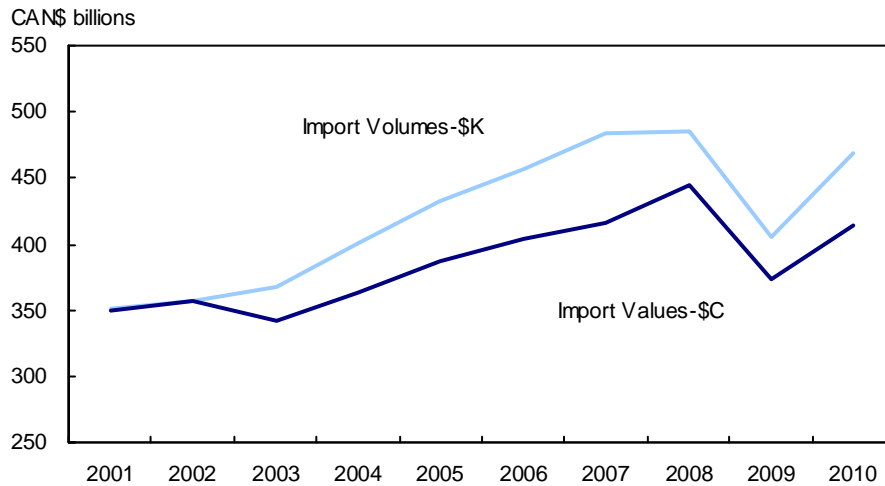
Exports of energy products also increased during the year, largely reflecting higher prices of crude petroleum. Exports of forestry products grew for the second time in 10 years, led by exports of wood pulp and similar pulp to China.

Exports of machinery and equipment fell for a third consecutive year. Lower exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment led the decline in this sector.

### Imports: Volumes rise in all sectors

Canada's imports rose 10.6% from 2009 to \$413.6 billion in 2010, after a drop of 15.7% in 2009. The gain resulted from a 15.7% increase in volumes while prices fell.

**Figure 2** Import values and volumes



**Source:** Statistics Canada, International Trade Division.

All import sectors recorded growth in 2010: automotive products and industrial goods and materials accounted for almost two-thirds of the gain.

**Table 2** Canada's merchandise imports, 2006 to 2010

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Difference from 2009 to 2010	Difference from 2009 to 2010
	values <sup>1</sup> in billions of current Canadian dollars						%
Agricultural and fishing products	23.5	25.5	28.5	29.3	29.6	0.3	1.0
Energy products	34.7	37.3	53.2	34.0	40.5	6.5	19.1
Forestry products	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.4	2.6	0.2	8.3
Industrial goods and materials	84.2	85.4	92.0	75.1	86.9	11.8	15.7
Machinery and equipment	114.7	116.6	122.7	107.9	113.8	5.9	5.5
Automotive products	79.8	80.0	72.0	55.3	68.7	13.4	24.2
Other consumer goods	52.0	54.8	57.6	57.5	57.8	0.3	0.5
<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>404.3</b>	<b>415.7</b>	<b>443.8</b>	<b>374.1</b>	<b>413.6</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>10.6</b>

1. On a balance-of-payments basis.

2. Total will not be the sum of all commodity groupings, as Special transactions trade and Other balance of payments adjustments are not shown in this table.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, International Trade Division

Imports of automotive products increased 24.2% from 2009 to \$68.7 billion in 2010, as volumes rose. Imports of motor vehicle parts grew after five consecutive years of declines. Imports of trucks reached their highest level since 2007, reflecting the demand for full-size pickup trucks no longer manufactured in Canada.

Imports of industrial goods and materials rose 15.7% from 2009 to \$86.9 billion in 2010, as a result of higher volumes. Imports of metals and metal ores, led by precious metals, reached unprecedented levels in 2010, and were the main factor behind the increase in the sector. While prices of metals and metal ores rose during the year, the growth was largely due to rising volumes.

Imports of energy products rose, largely the result of higher prices. Petroleum and coal products, followed by crude petroleum, accounted for most of the gain in this sector.

Imports of machinery and equipment increased, led by imports of other communication equipment, as new electronic products entered the market in 2010. Imports of engines, turbines and motors also contributed to the gain, reflecting the expansion of wind farm projects in Canada.

**Trade deficit increases**

Canada's trade deficit increased from \$4.6 billion in 2009 to \$9.0 billion in 2010, with a record monthly deficit of \$2.4 billion in July. This was the second straight year in which Canada had an annual trade deficit.

Canada's trade surplus with the United States increased from \$34.9 billion in 2009 to \$36.6 billion in 2010. This was mostly because automotive products trade regained some strength following large declines in 2009.

Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States rose from \$39.5 billion in 2009 to \$45.7 billion in 2010.

### Canada's trading partners: Regional Trends<sup>1</sup>

Three trading regions - North America, Europe, and Asia - were the destination of 95.6% of Canada's exports, and accounted for 91.5% of Canada's imports in 2010, (Refer to appendix A for the complete list of countries included in each trading region).

#### Exports: North America's share continues to decline

North America continued to be the most important export destination in 2010, accounting for 76.1% of all Canada's exports. This share has fallen from 87.1% in 2001, declining in 8 of the last 10 years. During the same period, the share of exports going to Europe and Asia nearly doubled.

**Table 3 Exports by trading regions**

	2001	2010	2001	2010
	values <sup>1</sup> in billions of current Canadian dollars		%	
North America	351.8	303.6	87.1	76.1
Europe	20.5	40.4	5.1	10.1
Asia	19.9	37.4	4.9	9.4
South America	3.0	5.6	0.7	1.4
Middle East	2.1	5.5	0.5	1.4
Africa	1.2	2.2	0.3	0.6
Oceania	1.3	2.2	0.3	0.6
Central America/Antilles	4.2	1.9	1.0	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>404.1</b>	<b>398.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1. On a customs basis.

Source: Statistics Canada, International Trade Division

### North America

Canada's exports to North American countries rose 10.4% from 2009 to \$303.6 billion in 2010. The top five exports from Canada to these countries were crude petroleum, passenger cars, petroleum and coal products, natural gas and motor vehicle parts. The United States, Canada's largest trading partner, was the main destination for these exports.

Exports to the United States increased 10.5% from 2009 to \$298.5 billion in 2010, mostly reflecting increases in exports of automotive products and energy products. Despite this gain, the share of Canada's exports going to the United States has fallen from 87.0% in 2001 to 74.9% in 2010. This largely reflected the decline in exports of automotive products over the past decade.

Although small in comparison with exports to the United States, exports to Mexico have been trending upwards since 2003. In 2010, exports to Mexico totalled \$5.0 billion, up 4.2% from 2009: canola and telecommunication equipment were the top exports. Exports of telecommunication equipment, mainly electronic components, have more than doubled over the past five years with the expansion of manufacturing capacity in Mexico.

<sup>1</sup> Customs based data were used in the analysis of Canada's trading partners

## Europe

Europe's share of Canada's exports has almost doubled over the past decade, from 5.1% in 2001 to 10.1% in 2010. Canada's exports to Europe totalled \$40.4 billion in 2010, up 17.9% from 2009. The United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands accounted for over half of these exports. In fact, the United Kingdom was the second most important destination for Canada's exports in 2010.

Canada exported \$16.4 billion worth of merchandise to the United Kingdom in 2010, a gain of 35.6% from 2009. Gold made up more than half of Canada's exports to this country, and accounted for almost all of the precious metal exports. Exports of precious metals to the United Kingdom increased 55.9% from 2009, as the demand for gold remained strong throughout the year.

Canada's exports to Germany increased 5.3% from 2009 to \$3.9 billion in 2010. Exports of iron ores rose 55.3%: they were the main export to Germany, followed by aircraft, engines and parts. Iron ores exported to Germany is used in large quantities in their steel products industry.

Canada exported \$3.2 billion worth of merchandise to the Netherlands in 2010, up 17.7% from 2009. Aluminium and alloys, petroleum and coal products as well as nickel were the top exports to this country.

## Asia

The share of Canada's exports destined for Asia increased from 4.9% in 2001 to 9.4% in 2010. Exports to Asia reached \$37.4 billion in 2010, up 11.8% from 2009. The majority of these exports were shipped to China, Japan, and South Korea.

China's share of Canada's exports has tripled in the past 10 years. Exports to China rose from \$11.2 billion in 2009 to \$13.2 billion in 2010, an eighth straight year of increases. In 2010, Canada's top five exports to China were wood pulp and similar pulp; coal and other bituminous substances; oils, fats, and waxes; iron ores and copper in ores.

Canada's exports of wood pulp and similar pulp reached a record high in December 2010, with the bulk of those exports going to China. Exports of coal, used in steel production in China, rose 53.3% in 2010. While Canada's exports of iron ores to China decreased in 2010, China still demanded more than half of the world's annual production. Exports of copper in ores continued to be high, as rapid Chinese modernization of infrastructure and real estate has pushed up demand.

Exports to Japan rose 10.6% from 2009 to \$9.2 billion in 2010, led by coal and other bituminous substances. Canola as well as fresh, chilled, or frozen meat were Canada's next two leading exports to Japan, and have held these rankings for the past four years.

Canada's exports to South Korea increased 5.2% from 2009 to \$3.7 billion in 2010 with coal and other bituminous substances as the top exported commodity.

### Imports: Share of Asia increases

As with exports, the share of Canada's imports from North America declined, from 65.7% in 2001 to 56.8% in 2010. The share of imports from Asia showed the largest growth during that period.

**Table 4 Imports by trading regions**

	2001	2010	2001	2010
	values <sup>1</sup> in billions of current Canadian dollars		%	
North America	225.4	229.2	65.7	56.8
Asia	46.5	81.5	13.6	20.2
Europe	45.0	58.5	13.1	14.5
South America	5.1	13.2	1.5	3.3
Africa	2.3	9.6	0.7	2.4
Middle East	2.9	6.5	0.8	1.6
Central America/Antilles	13.8	2.8	4.0	0.7
Oceania	2.2	2.1	0.6	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>343.1</b>	<b>403.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1. On a customs basis.

Source: Statistics Canada, International Trade Division

### North America

In 2010, the main imports from North America were motor vehicle parts, passenger cars, and trucks. Most of these imports came from the United States although they were also among the top five imports from Mexico.

Canada imported \$203.2 billion worth of merchandise from the United States in 2010, up from \$186.8 billion in 2009. Despite this gain, the share of Canada's imports from the United States has been declining steadily, from 63.6% in 2001 to 50.4% in 2010. As with exports, the automotive sector, which experienced difficulties in recent years, was the main factor behind the decrease in this share over the past decade.

Meanwhile, the share of imports from Mexico has grown almost continuously, from 3.5% in 2001 to 5.5% in 2010. Imports from Mexico reached \$22.1 billion in 2010. Imports of telecommunication equipment increased over the past 10 years, making them the top import from this country in 2010.

### Asia

In 2010, Canada imported \$81.5 billion worth of merchandise from Asia, a gain of 10.3% from 2009 and 75.4% from 2001.

Canada's imports from Asia accounted for 20.2% of our imports in 2010, up from 13.6% in 2001. In 2010, China accounted for over one-half of the imports from Asia, followed distantly by Japan and South Korea.

Canada's imports share from China has almost tripled over the past decade, going from 3.7% in 2001 to 11.0% in 2010. These imports totalled \$44.5 billion in 2010, up 12.1% from 2009 with growth recorded in the second and third quarters of 2010. The top five commodities imported were: electronic computers, telecommunication equipment, games and toys, furniture and fixtures, and outerwear. Electronic computers have remained the top import from China over the past decade.

Japan's importance as one of Canada's trading partner has been declining over the past 10 years. In 2001, Japan was Canada's second largest source of imports, accounting for 4.3% of our imports. Japan fell to the fourth rank in 2010, accounting for 3.3% of our imports. Canada imported \$13.4 billion worth of merchandise from this country in 2010: passenger cars and motor vehicle parts were the top two imports.

Imports from South Korea totalled \$6.1 billion in 2010. The share of Canada's imports from this country increased only slightly, from 1.3% in 2001 to 1.5% in 2010. Passenger cars were the top import in 2010.

### **Europe**

Europe's share of Canada's imports reached 14.5% in 2010, up from 13.1% in 2001. Canada imported \$58.5 billion worth of merchandise from Europe in 2010, up 2.6% from 2009. Our main European trading partners were Germany and the United Kingdom, followed by France, Italy and Switzerland.

Canada's imports from Germany totalled \$11.3 billion in 2010. Imports from this country have steadily increased since 2001, except in 2009, and represented 2.8% of our imports in 2010. Passenger cars as well as medicinal and pharmaceutical products have remained Canada's top two imports from Germany over the past decade.

Imports from the United Kingdom increased to \$10.7 billion in 2010, up from \$9.4 billion in 2009. In 2010, the main imports from the United Kingdom were crude petroleum; precious metals; medicinal and pharmaceutical products, as well as aircraft, engines, and parts. Crude petroleum has been the top import from the United Kingdom for the past decade.

The share of Canada's imports from France, Italy and Switzerland has remained relatively stable since 2001. Medicinal and pharmaceutical products were the top import from France and Switzerland in 2010 and were the second most important import from Italy after other beverages.



## Data concepts and methods

### **Concepts: Understanding export and import values, volumes and prices**

Throughout this article, export and import values, volumes, and prices are discussed and thus, it is important to make clear the relationship between these three concepts.

Export values refer to total exports, and are the dollar value of Canada's merchandise sales to other countries. Export values can be broken down into two components: export prices and export volumes.

Export prices are the prices charged for the merchandise sold. Export volumes are export values adjusted for price, also known as real exports or constant dollar exports. Constant dollar exports are calculated using the Paasche Price indices.

While export values offer an indication of whether Canadian companies received more dollars or fewer dollars for their goods, export volumes offer an indication of quantity.

Similarly, import values are the dollar value of Canada's merchandise purchases from companies located in other countries. Import prices are the prices that Canadian companies pay to import these products. Import volumes, or constant dollar imports, are import values adjusted for price. Constant dollar imports are calculated using the Paasche Price indices.

### **Methods: Analyzing international merchandise trade data**

Statistics Canada derives import trade data primarily from administrative records compiled by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). Canadian exports to the United States are compiled using United States import statistics while exports to other destinations are compiled by the International Trade Division from documents (Export Declaration - B13A) received via CBSA and from Summary Reports, Canadian Automated Export Declarations (CAED) and G7 Reports submitted directly to Statistics Canada.

This customs-based information undergoes certain adjustments in order to conform to the concepts and definitions of the Canadian System of National Accounts. The adjustments to derive balance of payments based trade data include valuation, residency, timing and coverage.

Unless otherwise specified all trade values are on a balance of payment basis. Trade data for individual countries are available on a customs basis.

## Appendix A

### North America

Canada  
Greenland  
Mexico  
Saint Pierre and Miquelon  
United States

### Europe

Albania  
Andorra  
Armenia  
Austria  
Azerbaijan  
Belarus  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Faeroe Islands  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Gibraltar  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Italy  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)  
Malta  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Republic of Ireland (Eire)  
Republic of Moldova  
Romania  
Russian Federation  
Serbia  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Tajikistan  
Turkmenistan

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Ukraine  
United Kingdom  
Uzbekistan

### Middle East

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Egypt  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Iran  
Iraq  
Israel  
Jordan  
Kuwait  
Lebanon  
Libya  
Oman  
Qatar  
Saudi Arabia  
Somalia  
Sudan  
Syria  
Turkey  
United Arab Emirates  
Yemen

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Antarctica  
Benin  
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Bouvet Island  
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Burundi  
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Chad  
Comoros  
Congo  
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Djibouti  
Equatorial Guinea  
French Southern Territories  
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Guinea-Bissau  
Ivory Coast  
Kenya  
Lesotho  
Liberia

### Africa (continued)

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Mauritius  
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Nigeria  
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Senegal  
Seychelles  
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