

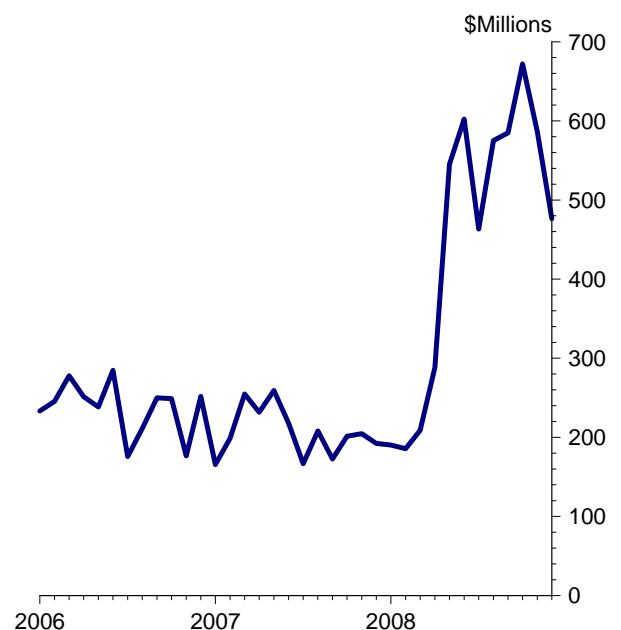
## Exports ♦ December 2008

- The value of BC origin exports climbed 5.0% in 2008, rebounding from a 5.7% drop between 2006 and 2007. The increase occurred despite an 8.1% decline in shipments to BC's largest trading partner, the United States.
- The main factor driving the overall jump in the value of BC exports was the skyrocketing demand for coal and the subsequent price inflation for that good. The value of BC coal exports more than doubled in 2008 (+117.4%), mostly as a result of the price increase, as quantities shipped grew only 6.4%. Since very little coal is shipped to the United States, the overall value of BC's exports managed to increase despite a reduction in shipments to the US. The tremendous growth for coal in 2008 pushed that good ahead of softwood lumber as BC's top export.
- Elsewhere in the energy sector, natural gas exports also experienced strong growth (+17.8%) and once again, price inflation played a significant role in the increase as quantities exported rose only 1.1%. Exports of electricity bucked the overall trend, slumping 15.6%.
- The news was nowhere near as positive in the forest sector, where both solid wood products (-24.5%) and pulp and paper products (-8.2%) saw a drop in exports. Shipments of softwood lumber, which had been BC's top export prior to 2008, fell 24.4%.
- Exports of metallic minerals dipped 2.8% in 2008, mainly due to a reduction in shipments of unwrought zinc (-24.7%), as well as a 2.6% drop in exports of unwrought aluminum. However, there was strong growth in ship-

ments of molybdenum ores and concentrates (+14.1%).

- Exports of machinery and equipment fell 3.0% in 2008 as a 16.0% slump in shipments of motor vehicles and parts more than offset a 10.0% jump in exports of electrical, electronic and communications equipment.
- With the exception of the US (-8.1%), India (-31.9%) and Australia (-2.8%), shipments to most of BC's major export destinations increased in 2008. The strongest growth was in exports to Mexico (+73.6%) and Asian destinations such as South Korea (+49.9%), Hong Kong (+41.8%), Taiwan (+29.4%), Japan (+21.5%) and Mainland China (+15.5%).

BC's exports of coal skyrocketed in 2008, which helped overall export growth stay positive

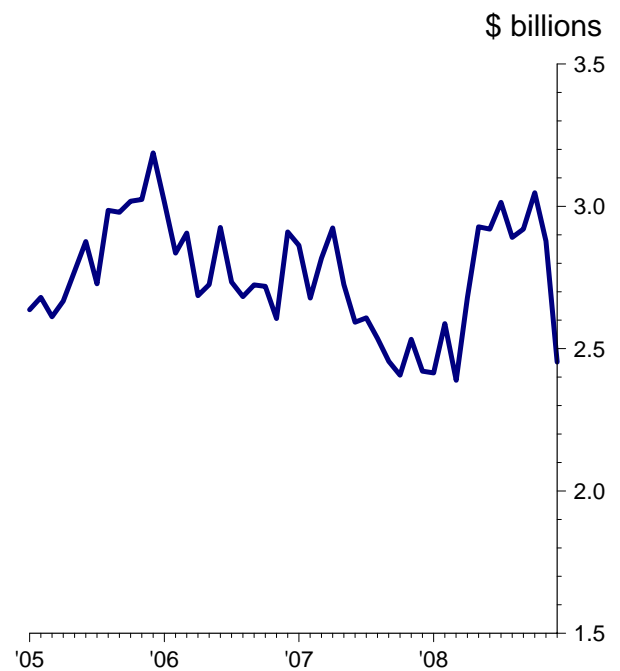


## SEASONALLY ADJUSTED EXPORTS

Seasonal adjustment supplies a means of making month-to-month comparisons by removing the regular periodic seasonal fluctuations that occur. Variations from normal seasonal patterns are revealed in the seasonally adjusted data series.

- The value of BC exports experienced a steep drop in December (-14.8%) as exports of both energy products (-20.3%) and industrial and consumer goods (-26.9%) fell dramatically. There were smaller declines for the other major commodity groups, but all of them saw a drop in exports.
- Exports to both the United States (-11.7%) and all other destinations (-17.8%) contributed to the overall decline. Forest product exports to the US slumped 18.9%, but shipments of forest products to all other countries actually climbed 14.7%.

*Exports (adjusted for seasonality)  
plunged in December*



**BC Exports, Seasonally Adjusted (\$Millions)**

Month	Agriculture & Fish	Energy	Forest Products	Machinery & Equip, Auto	Industrial, Consumer	Total	Exports to USA
Dec 2006	209	569	1,031	380	722	2,910	1,744
Jan 2007	208	527	1,123	366	639	2,863	1,766
Feb	198	573	972	368	566	2,678	1,655
Mar	209	540	1,082	380	607	2,818	1,728
Apr	197	554	1,120	377	676	2,924	1,712
May	189	556	1,016	340	624	2,725	1,632
Jun	182	487	1,001	344	578	2,593	1,602
Jul	168	517	968	349	606	2,608	1,592
Aug	179	481	989	346	540	2,536	1,568
Sep	195	469	825	366	600	2,455	1,506
Oct	169	483	861	329	566	2,407	1,438
Nov	164	519	870	338	641	2,533	1,448
Dec	188	491	863	319	560	2,421	1,442
Jan 2008	185	511	817	334	569	2,415	1,397
Feb	195	580	856	325	632	2,588	1,502
Mar	183	573	782	314	537	2,389	1,461
Apr	190	748	820	317	604	2,679	1,511
May	186	808	840	322	772	2,928	1,410
Jun	188	918	795	323	695	2,920	1,522
Jul	180	1,062	820	329	623	3,014	1,639
Aug	196	828	744	345	778	2,891	1,404
Sep	199	955	817	325	623	2,920	1,490
Oct	218	967	838	357	668	3,048	1,532
Nov	211	931	754	349	634	2,878	1,427
Dec	207	742	709	332	463	2,453	1,260

## Canada Seeks Trade Deal with the European Union

In the midst of a global economic crisis there have been several signs that protectionist sentiment is on the rise, creating concerns among countries such as Canada that are heavily dependent on trade. Measures such as the United States' "Buy American" restrictions in its stimulus bill, as well as new duties, domestic subsidies and restrictions introduced in other countries, have evoked memories of the infamous Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930, a protectionist measure introduced by the United States that ultimately resulted in a worldwide trade war and is thought by many to have been a contributing factor to the Depression. In a letter to US Senate leaders in response to the "Buy American" restrictions, Canadian Ambassador Michael Wilson cautioned that "A rush of protectionist actions could create a downward spiral like the world experienced in the 1930s."<sup>1</sup>

Given these concerns over the rising tide of protectionism, the current free trade talks between Canada and the European Union (EU) come at an opportune time. Discussion on a possible deal began in earnest last fall and ongoing talks since then have been focussed on the scope of a future free trade agreement. The hope is that full-scale negotiations between Canada and the 27-member EU will begin in May 2009. One of the possible sticking points to a deal is whether Canadian provinces will agree to opening up their public procurement systems to European companies. International Trade Minister Stockwell Day said he's confident that the provinces will agree to such provisions, noting that

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted in: Laghi, Brian and Carmichael, Kevin, "Canada takes battle over 'Buy American' to U.S. Senate," *The Globe and Mail*, p. A1, Feb. 3, 2009.

"we understand in Canada that we prosper because we are a trading nation. We produce more than we can consume, and if we can't trade then we're in trouble. Provinces, regardless of the political stripe of their government, recognize this."<sup>2</sup>

A trade deal with the European Union could ultimately be more encompassing than even the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) as it could include additional elements, such as measures designed to improve labour mobility, that are not part of NAFTA. A joint Canada-EU study suggests that a deal such as the one envisioned could create a total of €19.8 billion in additional income by 2014, of which €8.2 billion would be generated in Canada (approximately \$13 billion at current exchange rates).<sup>3</sup>

The large majority of that additional revenue would be from trade in services, but there would also be gains in trade in goods. The latest available data from Statistics Canada indicates that the value of Canada's service exports to the member countries of the European Union was approximately \$12.3 billion in 2006 (excluding Bulgaria and Romania, the latest countries to join the EU, for which data are not available). There were about \$13.7 billion worth of imports from EU countries into Canada in

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<sup>2</sup> As quoted in: O'Neil, Peter, "Canada and EU hope for freer trade," *Victoria Times-Colonist*, p. B1, Jan. 16, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> *Assessing the costs and benefits of a closer EU-Canada economic partnership: A joint study by the European Commission and the Government of Canada*, October, 2008.

that year, such that Canada had a \$1.4 billion deficit in trade in services with the EU.

**Canada's Trade in Services with the EU, 2006**  
(\$Millions)

Country	Exports	Imports	Balance
Austria	151	193	-42
Belgium/Luxembourg	248	306	-57
Denmark	228	178	50
France	1,784	2,263	-479
Finland	143	197	-54
Germany	1,702	1,805	-103
Greece	244	1,038	-794
Ireland	707	564	143
Italy	485	928	-443
Netherlands	741	860	-119
Poland	88	112	-24
Portugal	127	246	-119
Spain	437	423	15
Sweden	256	211	44
United Kingdom	4,760	4,037	723
Other*	198	293	-95
<b>European Union Total*</b>	<b>12,299</b>	<b>13,654</b>	<b>-1,354</b>

\*Excludes Bulgaria and Romania

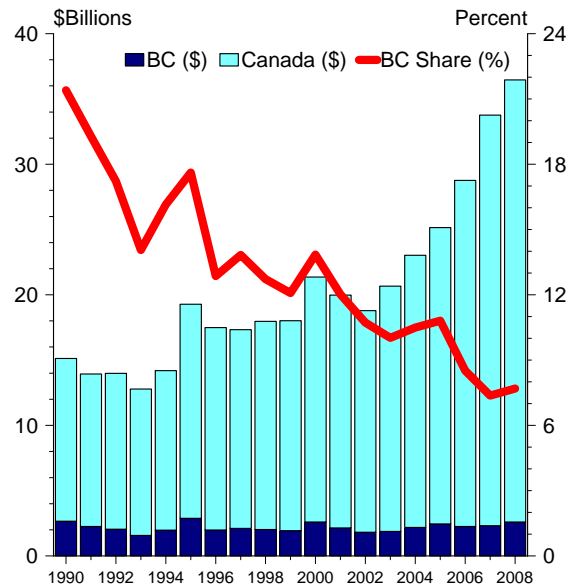
The figures for both exports and imports are approximately a third the value of the comparable data for trade in services with the United States. Nevertheless, they represent a substantial portion of Canada's trade in services.

On the goods side, Canada exported approximately \$33.9 billion worth of merchandise to the EU in 2008, of which around \$2.6 billion, or 7.7%, originated in British Columbia. These figures comprised only 7.4% of Canada's goods exports and 7.9% of BC's exports. The levels pale in comparison to trade with the United States, but the EU is still a significant trade partner for both British Columbia and Canada as a whole.

Canada imported approximately \$54.0 billion worth of goods from the EU in 2008, such that Canada had a deficit of about \$17.9 billion in trade in goods (note that the deficit is calculated using total exports including re-exports,<sup>4</sup> which was \$36.1 billion - the \$33.9 billion figure quoted earlier is for domestic exports only).

The value of Canada's commodity exports to the EU has risen significantly in the last several years, almost doubling from about \$17 billion in 2002 to just under \$34 billion in 2008. However, shipments originating in British Columbia have been flat and BC's share of Canadian exports to the EU has dropped from over 21% in 1990 to less than 8% in 2008.

**Canadian exports to the EU have been rising, but BC's share of Canadian exports has dropped**

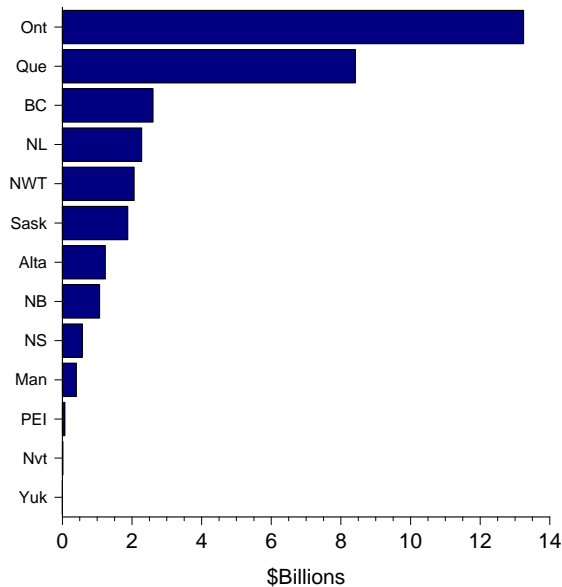


Source: Statistics Canada

<sup>4</sup> A re-export is a good that is imported into the country and then shipped back out again without being materially transformed. Since goods that are re-imported into Canada are counted on the import side, it is important to include re-exports when calculating a trade balance.

Despite the decline in BC's share of Canadian exports to the EU, British Columbia still ranked third among the provinces, behind only Ontario (39%) and Quebec (25%) in 2008. Newfoundland and Labrador (7%) and the Northwest Territories (6%) ranked fourth and fifth. Products from the mining industry, particularly gold and nickel were the top exports from Ontario to the EU. For Quebec, aircraft, aircraft parts and aluminum topped the list of exports, while Newfoundland and Labrador shipped mainly iron, copper and nickel ores and concentrates, as well as oil. In the Northwest Territories, virtually all the exports to the EU were comprised of diamonds and almost all of those were shipped to either the United Kingdom or Belgium.

**BC ranked third in the country in 2008 as a source for Canadian exports to the EU**



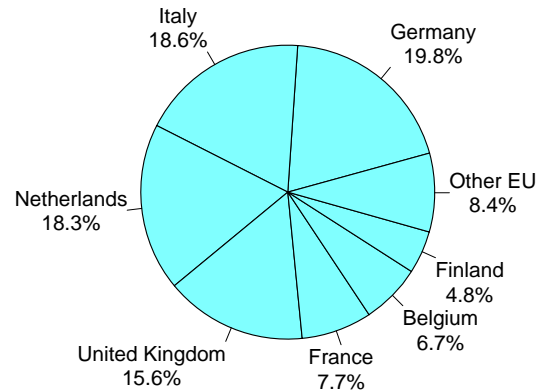
Source: Statistics Canada

By far, British Columbia's top export to the EU in 2008 was coal (40%), but pulp (11%) and softwood lumber (10%) were also significant exports to that region.

The large majority of BC's exports to the EU is destined for only a handful of countries: Germany (20%), Italy (19%) the Netherlands (18%), and the United Kingdom (16%). It is much the same for Canada as a whole, except the United Kingdom leads the way (36%), followed by Germany (12%), the Netherlands (10%), Belgium (9%) and France (9%).

**Over 90% of BC's exports to the 27-member EU is shipped to just seven countries**

Share of BC Exports to EU, 2008



Source: Statistics Canada

A free trade deal between Canada and the EU would undoubtedly be a positive step for both parties. However, there are still many roadblocks that need to be surpassed for such a deal to occur. Allowing competition from EU firms for government procurement contracts could be difficult for some provinces to accept and concerns from the agricultural sectors in both Canada and the EU could also make it difficult to come to an agreement. Nevertheless, the fact that Canada and the EU are talking free trade is seen by many as an important step, particularly in light of the current economic crisis and the protectionist forces springing up around the globe. If Canada and the EU can make free

trade work, it may give added incentive to countries around the world to come to a global trade agreement, which should benefit all countries.

### Recent Feature Articles in Exports Release Listed by Statistical Reference Date of Issue

<b>08-12</b> <i>Canada Seeks Trade Deal with the European Union</i> <i>(released February 2009)</i>	<b>07-10</b> <i>BC's Commodity Exports Are Still Largely Forest-Based</i> <i>(released December 2007)</i>
<b>08-11</b> <i>Adversity Leads to Diversity</i> <i>(released January 2009)</i>	<b>07-09</b> <i>Is Cross-Border Shopping Making a Comeback?</i> <i>(released November 2007)</i>
<b>08-10</b> <i>Import Content of BC's Exports</i> <i>(released December 2008)</i>	<b>07-08</b> <i>Prince Rupert Container Port Open for Business</i> <i>(released October 2007)</i>
<b>08-09</b> <i>BC's Trade in High Technology Goods</i> <i>(released November 2008)</i>	<b>07-07</b> <i>Canada Weighs Anchor on Free Trade with EFTA</i> <i>(released September 2007)</i>
<b>08-08</b> <i>Milking the System: Is Canada's Supply Management System an Impediment to Free Trade?</i> <i>(released October 2008)</i>	<b>07-06</b> <i>BC's Trade with California</i> <i>(released August 2007)</i>
<b>08-07</b> <i>Charting BC's Exports</i> <i>(released September 2008)</i>	<b>07-05</b> <i>Appreciating Dollar Not Appreciated by Exporters</i> <i>(released July 2007)</i>
<b>08-06</b> <i>Bad News for Newsprint Exports</i> <i>(released August 2008)</i>	<b>07-04</b> <i>The Greening of BC's Exports</i> <i>(released June 2007)</i>
<b>08-05</b> <i>Asia Offers Potential as a Destination for BC Exports</i> <i>(released July 2008)</i>	<b>07-03</b> <i>BC's High Tech Trade</i> <i>(released May 2007)</i>
<b>08-04</b> <i>The Price is Right for Coal Producers in BC</i> <i>(released June 2008)</i>	<b>07-02</b> <i>Canada-USA Corn Row</i> <i>(released April 2007)</i>
<b>08-03</b> <i>Border Line Threats to Trade</i> <i>(released May 2008)</i>	<b>07-01</b> <i>Is the Sun Rising on Trade With Japan?</i> <i>(released March 2007)</i>
<b>08-02</b> <i>Call of the Loonie: American Film and Television Productions Shun BC in 2007</i> <i>(released April 2008)</i>	<b>06-12</b> <i>Year in Review: 2006</i> <i>(released February 2007)</i>
<b>08-01</b> <i>BC Commodity Exports: Year in Review 2007</i> <i>(released March 2008)</i>	<b>06-11</b> <i>Brazil-Canada Trade Getting Over Jet Lag</i> <i>(released January 2007)</i>
<b>07-12</b> <i>Canada and Peru Agree on Free Trade</i> <i>(released February 2008)</i>	<b>06-10</b> <i>Plan B: An APEC Free Trade Region?</i> <i>(released December 2006)</i>
<b>07-11</b> <i>Over 100 Years of Canadian Exports</i> <i>(released January 2008)</i>	<b>06-09</b> <i>Success of BC's Mining Industry Helps Boost Exports</i> <i>(released November 2006)</i>

## NOTES

### Countries Included Within World Regions:

**(1) Western Europe:** United Kingdom, Ireland, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

**(2) Eastern Europe:** other Europe, including all of Russia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, etc.

**(3) South East Asia:** Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Myanmar, Kampuchea, Laos, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.

**(4) Africa:** continental Africa, excluding Ethiopia, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Egypt.

**(5) South America:** continental South America from Colombia and Venezuela south to Chile and Argentina, including offshore islands, but not Caribbean.

**(6) Central America and Caribbean:** from Guatemala and Belize to Panama, plus Caribbean Islands.

**(7) Pacific Rim (including Japan):** Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Laos, Mongolia, China, Indonesia, North Korea, South Korea, Philippines, Macau, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand.

**(8) Pacific Rim:** as above, but excluding Japan.

**(9) Middle East:** from Turkey and Iran south through the Arabian Peninsula. Excluding Afghanistan and Pakistan, but including Cyprus, Ethiopia, Egypt, Somalia, Sudan and Libya.

The **European Union** is the membership as of January 1, 2007: 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, United Kingdom.

**'Selected Value-added Wood Products'** category includes prefabricated houses, doors, windows, furniture, moulding, siding, etc. It does not include panel products, shakes, shingles or any pulp and paper products.

### Revisions

Statistics Canada revises trade data for the previous three data years with release of the December data. The revision number is indicated in the footer of the tables (e.g., Rev 1 is the first annual revision, etc., and Prelim indicates it is the first release of data to December for that year). In addition to annual revisions, Statistics Canada revises the data for the previous data year every quarter (indicated in the footer by Rev Q1, etc) as well as with the release of the January and February data.

### Service Offered for Detailed Trade Statistics

For BC government statistics users requiring more detailed information on exports or imports, a special report service is offered through the address below:

**Dan Schrier**  
**BC STATS**

P.O. Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1  
(250) 387-0376

This service is provided through the Trade Research and Inquiry Package (TRIP) computer reporting system. TRIP offers user-defined tabulations of export or import statistics for BC, Canada, the United States and other countries. Tabulations can include information on commodities, countries, US states, years, months, mode of transport, etc.