

# TRADE AND INVESTMENT

## CANADA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE WITH THE WORLD



### NOTES

*The Library of Parliament's Trade and Investment series provides information on Canada's trade and investment relationship with the world and with selected countries. It also describes the trade relationship of each of Canada's 10 provinces and three territories with the world. In addition, it presents Canada's merchandise trade relationship with each of the United States' 50 states.*

*All figures were prepared using Statistics Canada data available in spring 2017, with three exceptions: "Share of Global Merchandise Exports and Imports," "Exports as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product" and "Imports as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product." Those figures use merchandise trade data from the World Trade Organization and gross domestic product (GDP) data from the International Monetary Fund.*

*To see the data tables used to generate the figures, view the HTML version of this profile at [Trade and Investment Series 2016](#).*

*The merchandise trade data are customs-based. Numbers in this profile have been rounded.*

*Definitions appear at the end of this profile.*

*All dollar amounts are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.*

*The five most highly valued merchandise exports and imports categories have been identified based on 2016 values.*

**Michaël Lambert-Racine**

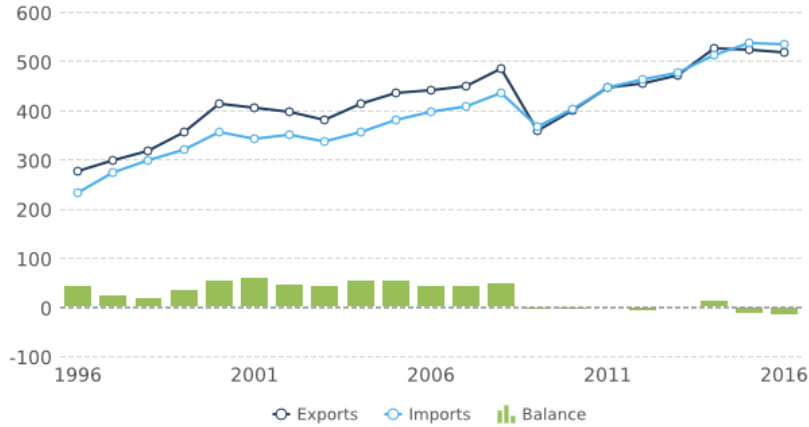
*Economics, Resources and International Affairs Division  
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## CANADA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE WITH THE WORLD

### Merchandise Trade

(\$ billions)

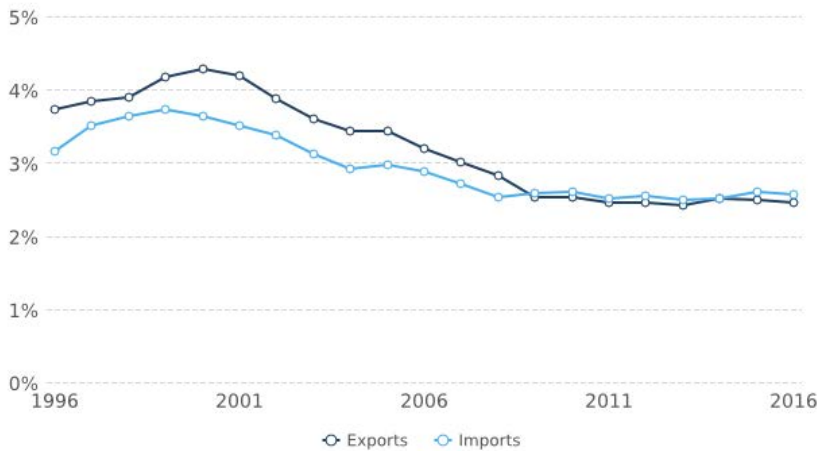


Canada's merchandise trade with the world in 2016: \$1.1 trillion

- Exports: \$517.0 billion, a 1.3% decrease from 2015
- Imports: \$533.3 billion, a 0.6% decrease from 2015

Trade deficit in 2016: \$16.3 billion, an increase from \$12.2 billion in 2015

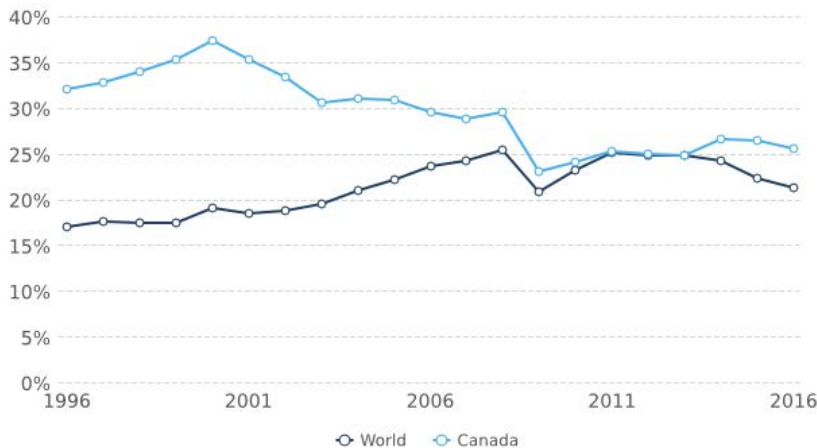
### Share of the Total Value of Global Merchandise Trade



Exports in 2016: 2.4% of the total value of global merchandise exports, a decrease from 2.5% in 2015

Imports in 2016: 2.6% of the total value of global merchandise imports, unchanged from 2015

### Exports as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product

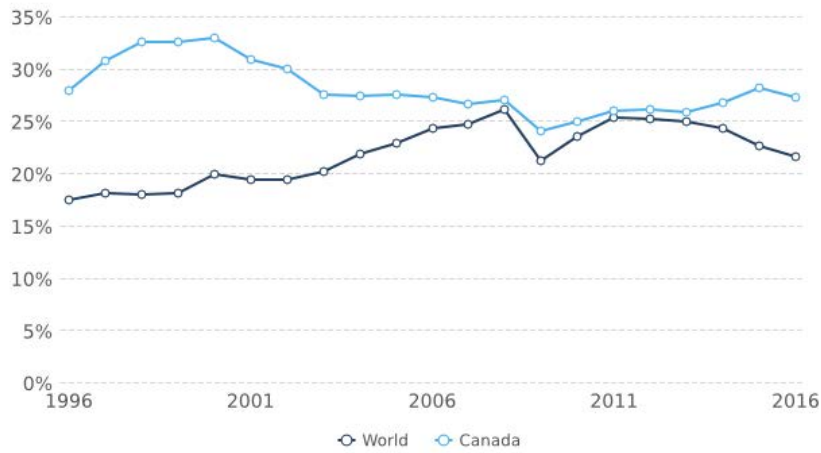


Canada's exports as a percentage of Canadian GDP in 2016: 25.5%, a decrease from 26.4% in 2015

Global exports as a percentage of global GDP in 2016: 21.2%, a decrease from 22.2% in 2015

**CANADA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE  
WITH THE WORLD**

**Imports as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product**

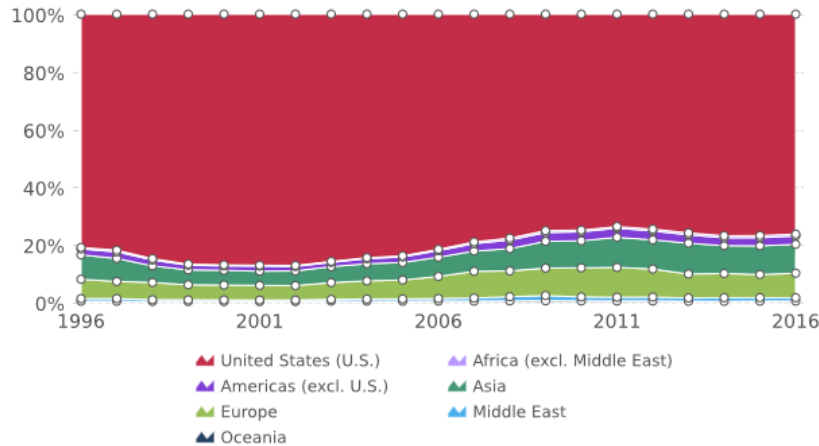


Canada's imports as a percentage of Canadian GDP in 2016: 27.2%, a decrease from 28.1% in 2015

Global imports as a percentage of global GDP in 2016: 21.6%, a decrease from 22.6% in 2015

## CANADA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE DESTINATIONS AND SOURCES

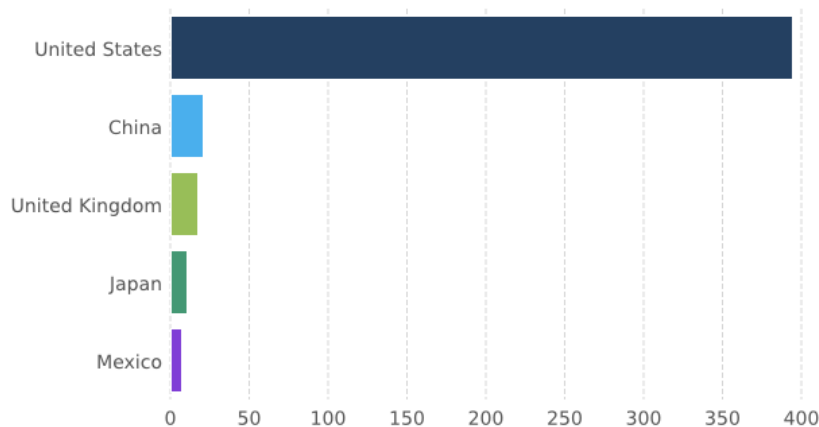
### Destinations for Exports by Region



Major destinations for merchandise exports, by region, in 2016:

- United States – 76.3%, with a value of \$394.4 billion
- Asia – 10.0%, with a value of \$51.8 billion
- Europe – 8.5%, with a value of \$43.9 billion
- Americas (excluding the United States) – 2.9%, with a value of \$14.8 billion
- Middle East – 1.2%, with a value of \$6.1 billion

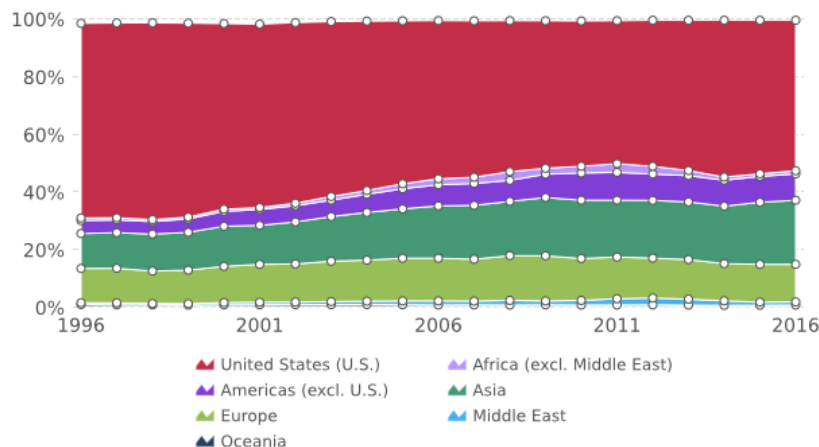
### Major Destinations for Exports by Country (\$ billions)



Major destinations for merchandise exports, by country, in 2016:

- United States – 76.3%
- China – 4.1%
- United Kingdom – 3.3%
- Japan – 2.1%
- Mexico – 1.5%

### Sources of Imports by Region

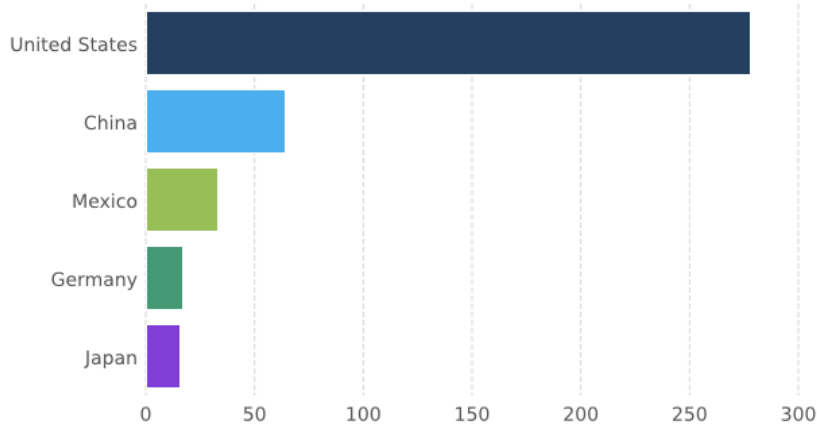


Major sources of merchandise imports, by region, in 2016:

- United States – 52.2%, with a value of \$278.3 billion
- Asia – 22.2%, with a value of \$115.5 billion
- Europe – 13.0%, with a value of \$69.4 billion
- Americas (excluding the United States) – 9.1%, with a value of \$48.8 billion
- Middle East – 1.1%, with a value of \$5.9 billion

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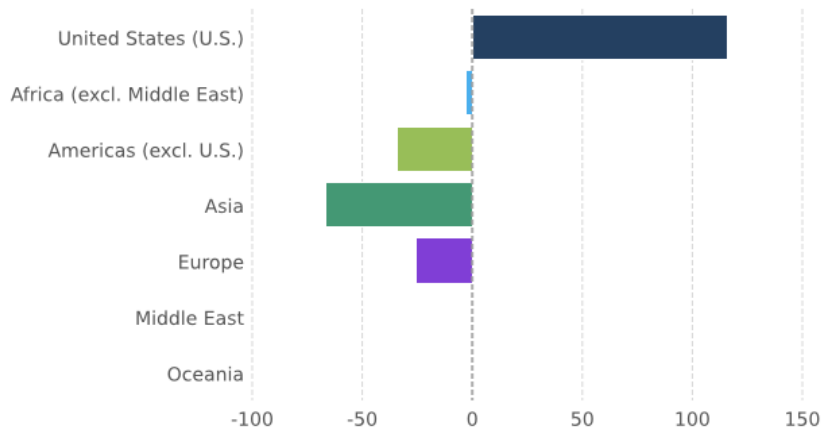
**Major Sources of Imports by Country**  
(\$ billions)



Major sources of merchandise imports, by country, in 2016:

- United States – 52.2%
- China – 12.1%
- Mexico – 6.2%
- Germany – 3.2%
- Japan – 3.0%

**Trade Balance by Region**  
(\$ billions)

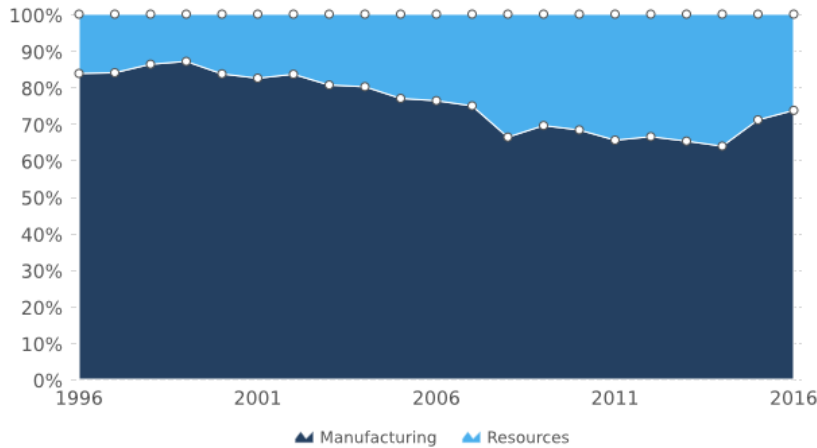


Largest merchandise trade deficit in 2016: Asia, at \$66.7 billion

Largest merchandise trade surplus in 2016: United States, at \$116.1 billion

## CANADA'S TRADE IN PRODUCTS WITH THE WORLD

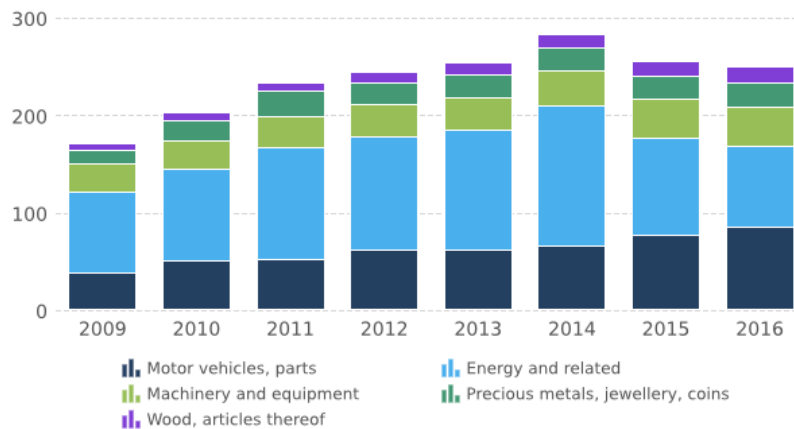
Share of Exports by Sector



Exports in 2016:

- Resource-based goods – 26.3%, a decrease from 29.0% in 2015
- Manufactured goods – 73.7%, an increase from 71.0% in 2015

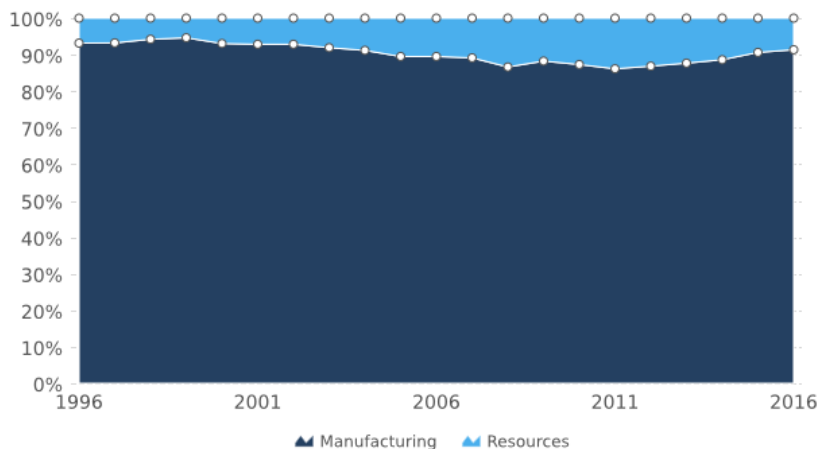
Most Highly Valued Exports by Product Category  
(\$ billions)



Highest-valued exports in 2016: Motor vehicles and crude oil, together accounting for 22.6% of the total value of Canadian exports

- Motor vehicles: \$64.7 billion, an increase from \$57.3 billion in 2015
- Crude oil: \$52.3 billion, a decrease from \$64.1 billion in 2015

Share of Imports by Sector

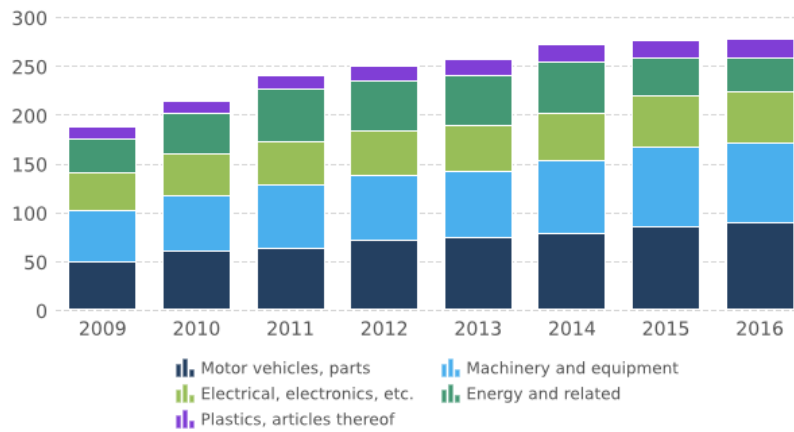


Imports in 2016:

- Resource-based goods – 8.7%, a decrease from 9.4% in 2015
- Manufactured goods – 91.3%, an increase from 90.6% in 2015

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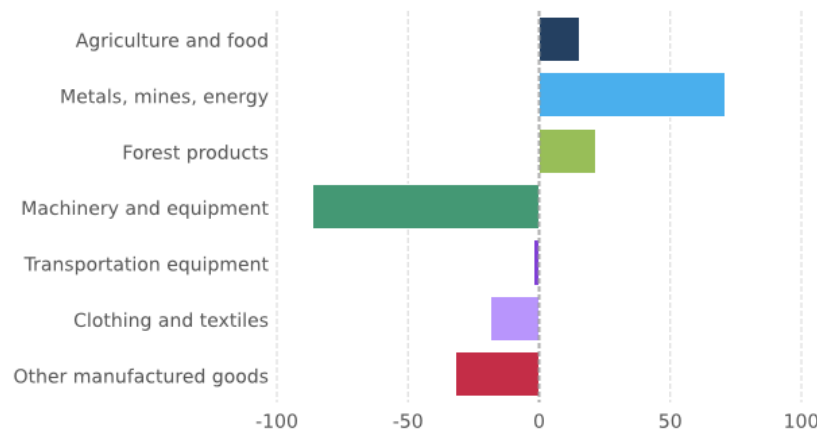
**Most Highly Valued Imports by Product Category**  
(\$ billions)



Highest-valued imports in 2016: Motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts, together accounting for 11.7% of the total value of Canadian imports

- Motor vehicles: \$35.0 billion, an increase from \$33.6 billion in 2015
- Motor vehicle parts: \$27.2 billion, an increase from \$25.4 billion in 2015

**Trade Balance by Product Category**  
(\$ billions)



Largest merchandise trade deficit in 2016: Machinery and equipment, at \$86.5 billion

Largest merchandise trade surplus in 2016: Metals, mines and energy, at \$70.8 billion

## DEFINITIONS

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**Balance of trade:** The trade balance is the difference between the value of exports and the value of imports. There is a trade surplus if the value of exports exceeds the value of imports. There is a trade deficit if the value of imports exceeds the value of exports.

**Customs-based data:** Customs-based data are compiled from declarations filed with the Canada Border Services Agency and are used to track the flow of goods into and out of Canada, with one exception: exports to the United States. Since 1990, customs-based data on Canadian exports to the United States have been based on declarations filed with U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

**Gross domestic product (GDP):** GDP measures an economy's total production in a given year. As one entity's income is another entity's spending, GDP is equal to the total value of final sales or to the total value of incomes.

**Manufactured goods:** Manufactured goods are finished or semi-finished products resulting from the transformation of materials and substances into new products (North American Industry Classification System, or NAICS, codes 31 to 33) and the output of establishments primarily engaged in operating electric, gas and water utilities (NAICS code 22).

**Merchandise trade:** Merchandise trade refers to trade in physical goods, such as cars, wheat and iron ore.

**Resource-based goods:** Resource-based goods are products of the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector (NAICS code 11), as well as the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction sector (NAICS code 21).