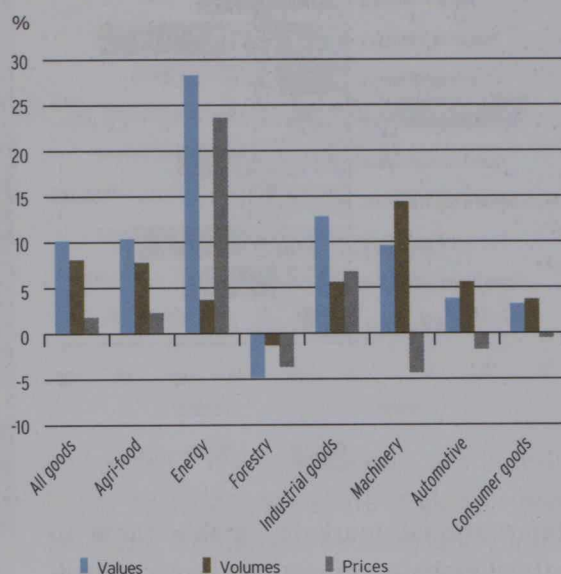


FIGURE 4-4
Growth in Canada's Goods Imports
by Major Groups, 2011



and equipment declined 17.2 percent, while import volumes rose 24.9 percent, leading to growth of \$0.5 billion. Other machinery and equipment, a wide-ranging category, grew more evenly this year, at 6.2 percent, due to volumes overcoming a slight drop in prices, but the sheer size of this category—nearly half of all Canadian machinery and equipment imports – occasioned a rise of \$3.5 billion in imports in 2011.

Industrial goods and materials remained the second-largest import category at \$98.0 billion, likewise reaching a record-high level. Growth was 12.7 percent on the year, adding \$11.1 billion to total goods imports, with prices and volumes contributing almost equally to the gains. Metals and metal ores was the leading category, with growth of \$6.9 billion, or 20.7 percent. The precious metals sub-category was the prime mover in this category, growing 34.2 percent (mainly on volumes) to add \$3.8 billion to the growth in metals and metal ores. The relatively small

8.7-percent increase in the prices of precious metals imported into Canada, coupled with a much greater rise in export prices (as indicated above), suggests that Canada may have imported more raw metals (e.g. gold and silver) to create added value this year and to take advantage of higher prices of the finished products manufactured from those metals. In other items, metals in ores and concentrates grew 18.6 percent, as did other steel and iron products, adding \$2.1 billion to this category's import values, driven by growth in both prices and volumes. Other categories within industrial goods and materials grew more slowly, with chemicals and plastics gaining 8.8 percent (\$2.6 billion) largely due to a 6.4-percent increase in prices. Organic chemicals volumes went down 10.4 percent, but this was compensated for by a 14.3-percent price rise. Import values of other industrial goods and materials increased \$1.6 billion (6.5 percent), mostly accounted for by metal fabricated basic products, which grew \$1.3 billion (13.5 percent), driven by higher volumes while prices remained stable.

Automotive products imports registered a second consecutive yearly increase in 2011, growing 3.7 percent and gaining \$2.6 billion to reach \$71.3 billion for the year. A price weakening of 1.8 percent was offset by volumes rising 5.6 percent. Trucks and other motor vehicles imports was the major growth category, increasing by \$1.5 billion, or 8.8 percent; volumes grew 12.9 percent, counteracting a 3.6-percent price drop. Motor vehicle parts gained 2.8 percent, increasing by \$0.8 billion, while imports of passenger cars did not change significantly.

Other consumer goods remained an important import sector, which declined only slightly during the recession, and grew