



Service bulletin

Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins



October 2006

Highlights

- Between September 2006 and October 2006, production of polyethylene in Canada went up 5% to 286,358 metric tonnes. Compared to the same month last year, it decreased 5.2%.
- Monthly ammonia, anhydrous production increased 8.4% to 396,811 metric tonnes in October 2006 and 4.6% from the same month last year.

Statistical tables

Table 1

Production of new virgin resin (excluding compounding or colouring ingredients), by product, monthly

Product	SCG ¹ Code	October	September	October	Change	Change
		2005	2006	2006	October 2006 to September 2006	October 2006 to October 2005
		metric tonnes			percentage	
Synthetic resins						
Polyethylene, low and linear low density	3901.10, 3901.90.10	x ^r	x	x	x	x
Polyethylene, high density	3901.20	x ^r	x	x	x	x
Polyethylene, total		301,987 ^r	272,673	286,358	5.0	-5.2
Polystyrene and acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (abs)	3903.1, 3903.30	14,306	17,744	23,692	33.5	65.6
Polyvinyl chloride	3904.10	x	x	x	x	x
Polyesters, unsaturated	3907.91	7,273	6,546	7,135	9.0	-1.9

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. SCG: Standard Classification of Goods.

Table 2
Production of industrial chemicals, by product, monthly

Product	SCG ¹ Code	October	September	October	Change	Change
		2005	2006	2006	October 2006 to September 2006	October 2006 to October 2005
		metric tonnes			percentage	
Acids						
Hydrochloric (muriatic) acid, 100%	2806.10.20	12,878	12,810	12,969	1.2	0.7
Nitric acid, 100 %	2808.00.10	100,179	80,383	104,182	29.6	4.0
Phosphoric acid, wet process	2809.20	x	x	x	x	x
Sulphuric acid, all grades, including oleum, as 100%	2807	322,130	278,532	324,654	16.6	0.8
Other Industrial Chemical Products						
Aluminum sulphate (alum)	2833.22	14,402	12,123	14,409	18.9	0.0
Ammonia, anhydrous, 100%	2814.10	379,373	366,219	396,811	8.4	4.6
Ammonium nitrate, all grades	3102.30	105,511	71,380	110,526	54.8	4.8
Ammonium phosphate, all grades	3105.30	x	x	x	x	x
Butadiene	2901.24.10	21,612	21,694	21,553	-0.6	-0.3
Butylene	2901.23	18,653	17,747	11,836	-33.3	-36.5
Carbon black	2803	21,670	18,276	20,644	13.0	-4.7
Chlorine	2801.10	82,615	83,407	82,505	-1.1	-0.1
Ethylene	2901.21	389,031	399,254	x	x	x
Formaldehyde, 100% solids basis	2912.11	22,819	20,378	19,186	-5.8	-15.9
Hydrogen peroxide, 100%	2847.00	19,268	20,380	15,725	-22.8	-18.4
Methyl alcohol (methanol)	2905.11	x	x	x	x	x
Propylene, as propylene in all grades	2901.22	46,353	74,936	70,763	-5.6	52.7
Sodium chlorate	2829.11	98,145	91,776	92,063	0.3	-6.2
Sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), as 100% NaOH	2815.1	90,965	88,349	88,406	0.1	-2.8
Urea, all grades	3102.10	320,708	x	297,600	x	-7.2
Benzene	2902.20	55,989	49,720	48,020	-3.4	-14.2
Toluene	2902.30	11,192	15,013	13,777	-8.2	23.1
Xylene	2902.4	x	17,427	15,796	-9.4	x
Zinc oxide	2817.00.1	x	x	x	x	x

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Table 3
Production of new virgin resin (excluding compounding or colouring ingredients), by product, year-to-date

Product	SCG ¹ Code	Year-to-date	Year-to-date	Change
		October 2005	October 2006	year-to-date 2006 over 2005
		metric tonnes		percentage
Synthetic resins				
Polyethylene, low and linear low density	3901.10, 3901.90.10	x	x	x
Polyethylene, high density	3901.20	x	x	x
Polyethylene, total		2,834,509	2,981,022	5.2
Polystyrene and acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (abs)	3903.1, 3903.30	166,233	172,329	3.7
Polyvinyl chloride	3904.10	x	x	x
Polyesters, unsaturated	3907.91	75,677	69,222	-8.5

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Table 4
Production of industrial chemicals, by product, year-to-date

Product	SCG ¹ Code	Year-to-date	Year-to-date	Change year-to-date 2006 over 2005
		October 2005	October 2006	
		metric tonnes		percentage
Acids				
Hydrochloric (muriatic) acid, 100%	2806.10.20	115,819	131,004	13.1
Nitric acid, 100 %	2808.00.10	996,534	979,948	-1.7
Phosphoric acid, wet process	2809.20	x	x	x
Sulphuric acid, all grades, including oleum, as 100%	2807	3,096,619	3,152,673	1.8
Other industrial chemical products				
Aluminum sulphate (alum)	2833.22	148,958	137,436	-7.7
Ammonia, anhydrous, 100%	2814.10	3,943,191	3,835,089	-2.7
Ammonium nitrate, all grades	3102.30	1,042,361	980,178	-6.0
Ammonium phosphate, all grades	3105.30	x	x	x
Butadiene	2901.24.10	214,747	219,306	2.1
Butylene	2901.23	198,411	182,301	-8.1
Carbon black	2803	195,842	189,801	-3.1
Chlorine	2801.10	838,866	826,373	-1.5
Ethylene	2901.21	x	x	x
Formaldehyde, 100% solids basis	2912.11	x	202,224	x
Hydrogen peroxide, 100%	2847.00	203,942	x	x
Methyl alcohol (methanol)	2905.11	x	x	x
Propylene, as propylene in all grades	2901.22	649,895	689,748	6.1
Sodium chlorate	2829.11	971,175	931,692	-4.1
Sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), as 100% NaOH	2815.1	932,357	894,483	-4.1
Urea, all grades	3102.10	2,991,844	x	x
Benzene	2902.20	680,203	614,244	-9.7
Toluene	2902.30	159,926	207,254	29.6
Xylene	2902.4	x	x	x
Zinc oxide	2817.00.1	x	x	x

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Concepts, methodology and data quality

This publication presents the results of the survey, Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins. This survey measures, on a monthly basis, the quantities of selected industrial chemicals and new virgin resins produced by Canadian manufacturers. The target population for this survey includes all manufacturers in Canada of industrial chemicals and synthetic resins as defined in the Standard Classification of Goods (SCG), that report these products to the . The businesses included in these 4 surveys are selected from respondents to the Annual Survey of Manufactures and Logging or ASML (Survey ID 2103). This means that estimates from this monthly survey do not cover the entire universe of industrial chemicals and synthetic resins producers in Canada, because the ASML does not survey all businesses. Instead, the ASML uses administrative data to cover the small and medium-sized establishments. These manufacturers are not part of this survey.

General methodology

Data are collected each month from survey respondents using a mail-out / mail-back process. Data capture and preliminary editing are performed simultaneously to ensure validity of the data. Businesses from whom no response has been received or whose data may contain errors are followed-up by telephone or fax.

Missing data for the current month are imputed automatically by applying to the previous month's value, the month-to-month change observed for the same period in the previous year, for the unit in question. However, an option exists for analysts to manually override this imputation with a better estimate based on pertinent knowledge about the industry or the business.

Various confidentiality rules are applied to all data before they are released to prevent the publication or disclosure of any information deemed confidential. If necessary, data are suppressed to prevent direct or residual disclosure of identifiable data.

Direct disclosure could occur when the value in a tabulation cell is composed of a few respondents or when the cell is dominated by a few companies. Residual disclosure could occur when confidential information can be derived indirectly by piecing together information from different sources or data series.

Under normal circumstances, data are collected, captured, edited, tabulated and published within 6 to 7 weeks after the reference month.

Revisions

Data may be revised to include amended information or reports from respondents that are received after the end of a collection cycle. Revisions are disseminated in subsequent periods and reflected in the CANSIM series and in the tables of this publication.

Data accuracy

The methodology for this survey has been designed to promote data accuracy. Since data are collected from all Canadian producers of industrial chemicals and synthetic resins within the target population, the resulting estimates are not subject to sampling error. However, the results are still subject to non-sampling errors associated with coverage, non-response, inaccurate reporting, and processing. Errors relating to coverage and non-response can be measured. All attempts are made to control inaccurate reporting and processing errors.

Moreover, survey results are analyzed to ensure comparability with patterns observed in the historical data series and the economic condition of the industry. Information available from other sources such as the media, other government organizations and industry association are also used in the validation process.

Coverage error

There is a degree of under coverage (referred to as coverage error) in the survey results as there is generally a lag between the time a new business comes into existence and when it is included in the universe of this sub-annual survey. This occurs because the list of businesses surveyed is derived from the latest available survey results for the ASML which are not available until 15 months after the reference period.

This error is kept at a minimum by also using advance information from the ASML, and other sources such as the Canadian Chemicals Producers' Association, trade journals and newspaper articles to identify new survey units.

Based on the ASML 2004 (latest available survey results), the coverage error for the Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins survey was 3%.

Non-response error

Some respondents may be unable to provide data for numerous reasons (i.e. fire, theft, strike, economic hardship, etc.), while others may be too late in responding. To minimize non-response, delinquent respondents are followed up rigorously by phone or fax. Data for the non-responding units are imputed using industry trend and other related information. Data are revised at a later date, if completed questionnaires are received after the end of a collection cycle.

The average non-response error for the Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins survey was estimated at less than 1% for 2005 (the last completed cycle).

Inaccurate response

Inaccuracy may result from poor questionnaire design or an inability on the part of respondents to provide the requested information or from misinterpretation of the survey questions. To reduce such errors, the format and wording in the questionnaire are reviewed from time to time and modified based on feedback from survey respondents and data users. Respondents are also reminded of the importance of their contribution and of the need for accurate reporting.

Processing errors

These errors may occur at various stages in the processing of survey data such as data entry, verification, editing and tabulation. Data are examined for such errors using automated edits along with an analytical review by subject matter experts. Several checks are performed on the collected data to verify internal consistency and comparability over time.

Definitions

Production: production refers to the quantity of products manufactured in Canada during a reference period including intermediate products. The final products may be shipped or retained in inventory.

More detailed data are available from the Annual Survey of Manufactures and Logging, CANSIM Table 301-0003. Specific enquiries should be directed to: The marketing and dissemination section, manufacturing, construction and energy division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6 (Telephone: 1-866-873-8789 or 613-951-9497; Fax line: 613-951-9499; Internet: manufact@statcan.ca).

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