

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, October 16, 1997  
For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, August 1997**

Manufacturers lost some of the ground gained from an unusual surge in July shipments with a 2.3% drop in August. Despite the decline, the level of shipments in August was still in line with the solid growth trend manufacturers have sustained since early 1996, after a flat 1995.

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- **Travel between Canada and other countries, August 1997**

In August, Americans made the highest monthly number of trips of at least one night to Canada in more than nine years. Meanwhile, residents of countries other than the United States made more overnight trips to Canada compared with the previous month for the first time since February.

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- Industrial monitor on CD-ROM, October 1997 8
- Steel primary forms, week ending October 11, 1997 8
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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

August 1997

Manufacturers lost some of the ground gained from an unusual surge in July shipments with a 2.3% drop in August. Despite the decline, the level of shipments in August was still in line with the solid growth trend manufacturers have sustained since early 1996, after a flat 1995. Shipments had increased sharply (+4.1%) in July as a broad-based increase by most industries was intensified by temporary surges in the automotive and refinery industries.

Inventories rose 1.0% in August, the sixth increase of the year. Despite the recent spate of increases, inventories on balance have not been getting ahead of shipments. Unfilled orders posted a 1.3% increase, the eighth advance in nine months.

#### August decline brings shipments in line with positive trend of previous months

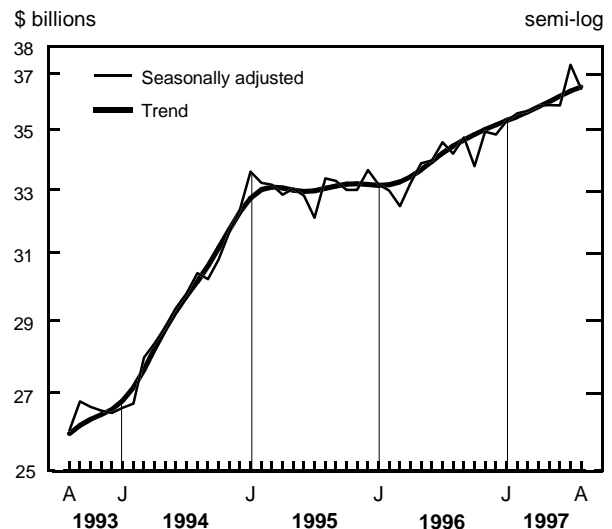
Total manufacturing shipments fell 2.3% in August to \$36.5 billion. Production difficulties and anticipated extended shutdowns beginning in August at some automotive plants (as well as maintenance shutdowns at some oil refineries) had combined to hold back shipments in June, and produced a compensating surge in July. While August's results may appear weak when viewed against July's performance, a comparison with May (before the impact of these temporary factors was felt) shows that shipments have been rising at roughly the same average monthly rate as in the previous 12 months (about +0.5%). Declines in August were widespread as many other industries also fell back from high July levels: 16 of 22 major industry groups, accounting for about 72% of shipments, declined.

#### Note to readers

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments, assuming that orders are not cancelled. New orders represent orders received whether shipped in the current month or not. They are measured as the sum of shipments for the current month (i.e., orders received this month and shipped within the same month) plus the change in unfilled orders.

Some orders will not be translated into Canadian factory shipments, as portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to other countries.

#### Shipments return to trend of previous months



The largest decrease was in the motor vehicle industry (-9.6%), which will continue to feel the effect of shutdowns by some plants (for extensive line changes) in the coming months. Shipments of electrical and electronic products (-5.3%) also fell in August, after an unusually pronounced push by some manufacturers in the previous month — especially in the electronic equipment component of the industry.

Shipments of paper and allied products (-2.0%) were hampered by strike action, while shipments of wood (-1.3%) fell again (partly because of a slump in Japanese demand). The fabricated metal products industry also recorded a decline (-3.7%).

The largest offsetting increases were in the food (+1.6%) and other manufacturing (+4.6%) industries.

**Inventories rise again**

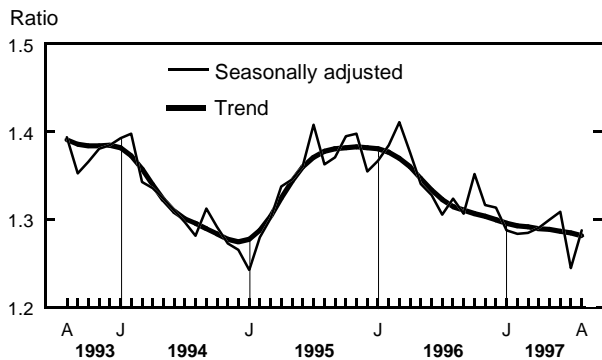
Manufacturers' inventories rose 1.0% in July to \$46.9 billion — the sixth increase of the year. Inventories have been edging up gradually since a downward adjustment by manufacturers in the spring of 1996 checked the steep growth of the 1993-to-1995 period.

An important part of the August increase resulted from heightened activity in the machinery (+5.7%) and electrical and electronic product (+1.8%) industries. However, increases were widespread as manufacturers continued to increase their holdings after reporting for the first time, that on balance, they felt that their inventories were "too low" (according to the July Business Conditions Survey).

Other increases were recorded in the aircraft and parts (+2.4%) and the fabricated metal products (+1.5%) industries. The largest declines occurred in the food (-1.0%) and the motor vehicle (-1.3%) industries.

The August decline in shipments and the rise in inventories combined to increase the inventory-to-shipments ratio to 1.29 (from an all-time low of 1.24 in July). Despite this month's sizeable increase, the ratio continues to trend downwards, indicating that growth in inventories is not outpacing that of shipments. (In the short term, a declining inventory-to-shipments ratio points to a possible undersupply and suggests that output may have to be increased in the future.)

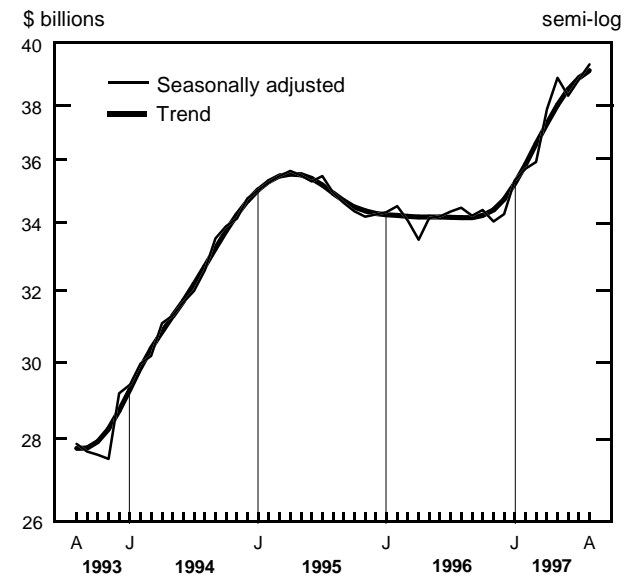
**Inventories continue to trail shipments**



**Unfilled orders continue to rise**

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders, a key determinant of future shipments, rose 1.3% in August to \$39.2 billion. The August increase is the eighth advance in the last nine months. Increases in unfilled orders since the beginning of 1997 represent a significant departure from a flat performance in 1996.

**Unfilled orders continue to rise**



The largest increases in unfilled orders came from the electrical and electronic parts (+3.2%) and the aircraft and parts (+1.4%) industries, which have both seen their backlog of orders grow strongly in recent months. These increases were partly offset by a decrease in the motor vehicle industry (-1.4%).

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9559, 9562-9579 and 9581-9595.**

For more information, consult the August 1997 issue of *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001-XPB, \$20/\$196), which will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available on request. For further information, contact Richard Evans of the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section (613-951-9834) or Robert Traversy, Information and

Classification Section (613-951-9497), Manufacturing,  
Construction and Energy Division.

**Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries**

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventories- to- shipments ratio
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	
August 1996	34,184	-1.1	45,263	0.3	34,470	0.3	34,299	-1.2	1.32
September 1996	34,739	1.6	45,414	0.3	34,224	-0.7	34,493	0.6	1.31
October 1996	33,756	-2.8	45,653	0.5	34,404	0.5	33,936	-1.6	1.35
November 1996	34,926	3.5	45,985	0.7	34,035	-1.1	34,557	1.8	1.32
December 1996	34,832	-0.3	45,767	-0.5	34,265	0.7	35,062	1.5	1.31
January 1997	35,301	1.3	45,471	-0.6	35,325	3.1	36,361	3.7	1.29
February 1997	35,574	0.8	45,683	0.5	35,704	1.1	35,953	-1.1	1.28
March 1997	35,663	0.3	45,845	0.4	35,924	0.6	35,883	-0.2	1.29
April 1997	35,845	0.5	46,262	0.9	37,655	4.8	37,576	4.7	1.29
May 1997	35,856	0.0	46,597	0.7	38,736	2.9	36,936	-1.7	1.30
June 1997	35,848	0.0	46,913	0.7	38,125	-1.6	35,237	-4.6	1.31
July 1997	37,325	4.1	46,457	-1.0	38,694	1.5	37,894	7.5	1.24
August 1997	36,451	-2.3	46,939	1.0	39,213	1.3	36,970	-2.4	1.29

## Travel between Canada and other countries

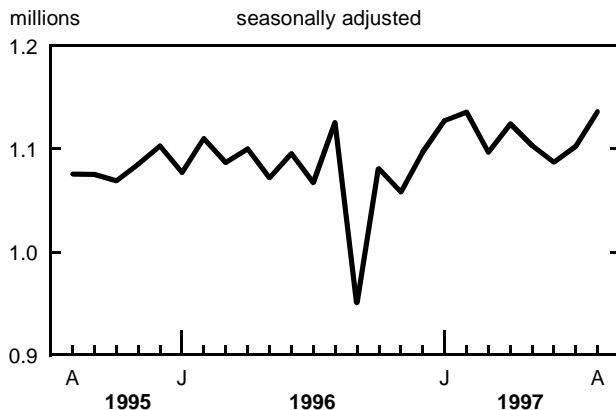
August 1997

In August, Americans made the highest monthly number of trips of at least one night to Canada in more than nine years. Meanwhile, residents of countries other than the United States made more overnight trips to Canada compared with the previous month for the first time since February.

### Increase in overnight trips to Canada by foreigners

Americans undertook 1.1 million overnight trips to Canada in August. The 3.0% increase from July brought the number of these trips to their highest monthly level since February 1988. The number of overnight trips by Americans has been fluctuating around 1.1 million per month since early 1995.

**Overnight trips to Canada by Americans at nine-year high**



Meanwhile, for the first time in six months, the number of overnight trips by overseas visitors increased to 353,000 in August, up 1.6% from July. Prior to the six-month decline, the trend in overnight trips to Canada by residents of overseas countries had been upward between mid-1992 and the peak in February 1997. Overall, foreigners spent at least one night in Canada on 1.5 million occasions in August, up 2.7% from July.

### Note to readers

Unless otherwise specified, data mentioned in this release are seasonally adjusted (adjusted for variations that repeat annually and for variability caused by the different volumes of travellers associated with different days of the week).

Month-to-month comparisons use seasonally adjusted data. Year-over-year comparisons use unadjusted data (the actual traffic counts). An excursion is a same-day trip.

### Number of trips of one or more nights to Canada by residents of selected overseas countries

Origin	Aug. 1997 <sup>P</sup>	Aug. 1996 to Aug. 1997
unadjusted		
	'000	% change
<b>Europe</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>-2,1</b>
France	79	0,1
Germany	73	-6,3
United Kingdom	106	1,9
Other European countries	112	-4,3
<b>Asia</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>-10,6</b>
Hong Kong	20	-28,1
Japan	85	-16,1
South Korea	23	-6,4
Taiwan	18	-8,5
Other Asian countries	55	6,7
<b>Other countries</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>3,5</b>
Australia	19	-9,5
Other countries	69	7,8

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

### Canadians made more overnight trips to the United States, fewer trips overseas

In August, Canadians made 1.2 million trips of at least one night to the United States, slightly more than during the previous month. The number of trips by Canadians who spent at least one night in the United States peaked at 1.8 million in December 1991, when the Canadian dollar was worth US\$0.87. However, the Canadian currency gradually lost value compared with the U.S. dollar and Canadians made fewer and fewer overnight trips south of the border until mid-1994. Since then, the number of overnight trips by Canadians to the United States has fluctuated between 1.2 and 1.3 million.

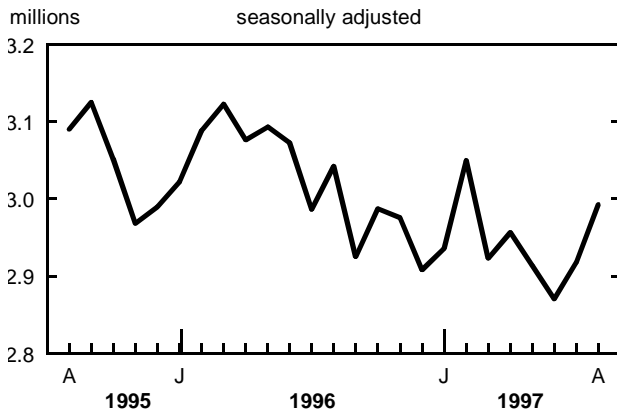
Meanwhile, Canadians travelled less to overseas destinations in August. They made 330,000 trips to

countries other than the United States, down 1.3% from July. The trend in trips to overseas destinations by Canadians has generally been upward since early 1991.

**Canadians made more cross-border car excursions to the United States in August**

In August, Canadians made 3.0 million same-day car trips to the United States, up 2.6% from July. Canadians made almost 5.4 million same-day car trips in November 1991 when the Canadian dollar was worth US\$0.88, compared with US\$0.72 in July 1997. Following the November 1991 peak, Canadians made fewer and fewer same-day car trips to the United States until early 1994, when the number of these excursions became relatively stable.

**Canadians' cross-border car excursions were up in August**



Americans made 2.1 million automobile excursions to Canada in August, practically unchanged from the previous month. The trend in Americans' same-day car trips to Canada has generally been upward after reaching its most recent low in January 1994.

Americans continued to make more car excursions via the Rainbow and Whirlpool bridges in Niagara Falls in August compared with the same month last year

(+35%). A casino located on the Ontario side opened in December 1996.

**Car excursions between Canada and the United States**

	Americans to Canada		Canadians to the United States	
	Aug. 1997 <sup>P</sup>	Aug. 1996 to Aug. 1997	Aug. 1997 <sup>P</sup>	Aug. 1996 to Aug. 1997
	unadjusted			
	'000	% change	'000	% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>3,058</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>3,740</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Place of entry/re-entry</b>				
New Brunswick	178	-0.8	539	7.5
Quebec	140	-4.8	374	-8.4
Ontario	2,379	6.9	1,704	1.5
Manitoba	51	20.2	93	6.5
Saskatchewan	10	-19.4	22	-8.1
Alberta	23	9.3	22	7.4
British Columbia	273	16.8	983	0.8
Yukon	5	0.6	5	-18.6

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 2661-2697, 5780-6046 and 8200-8328.**

The August 1997 issue of *International travel: Advance information* (66-001-PPB, \$8/\$73) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Luc Dubois (613-951-1674; fax: 613-951-2909; Internet: [duboluc@statcan.ca](mailto:duboluc@statcan.ca)), International Travel Section, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

**Travel between Canada and other countries**

	June 1997 <sup>r</sup>	July 1997 <sup>r</sup>	Aug. 1997 <sup>p</sup>	July 1997 to Aug. 1997 <sup>p</sup>
seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change
<b>Canadian trips abroad</b>				
Car trips to the United States				
Same-day	2,870	2,918	2,993	2.6
One or more nights	783	760	782	2.9
Total trips, one or more nights				
United States <sup>1</sup>	1,271	1,239	1,244	0.4
Other countries	329	335	330	-1.3
<b>Travel to Canada</b>				
Car trips from the United States				
Same-day	2,062	2,069	2,070	0.1
One or more nights	717	715	739	3.4
Total trips, one or more nights				
United States <sup>1</sup>	1,087	1,103	1,137	3.0
Other countries <sup>2</sup>	352	347	353	1.6
	Aug. 1997 <sup>p</sup>	Aug. 1996 <sup>p</sup> to Aug. 1997	Jan.- Aug. 1997	Jan.-Aug. 1996 to Jan.-Aug. 1997 <sup>p</sup>
unadjusted				
	'000		% change	
<b>Canadian trips abroad</b>				
Car trips to the United States				
Same-day	3,740	1.1	23,964	-3.8
One or more nights	1,550	1.5	6,811	-3.3
Total trips, one or more nights				
United States <sup>1</sup>	2,061	1.0	10,945	-1.0
Other countries	409	9.6	2,899	8.7
<b>Travel to Canada</b>				
Car trips from the United States				
Same-day	3,058	6.7	17,546	6.3
One or more nights	1,626	-	6,322	-
Total trips, one or more nights				
United States <sup>1</sup>	2,397	3.1	9,798	1.7
Other countries <sup>2</sup>	659	-4.2	3,042	-2.8

- amounts too small to be expressed.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>1</sup> Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

<sup>2</sup> Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Raw materials price indexes — early estimate

September 1997

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) is estimated to have decreased 1.8% in September from a month earlier. All major components declined in September. The metals index led the way, with a drop of 2.8%, followed by wood (-2.5%), mineral fuels (-1.8%) and vegetable and animal products (-0.9%). The RMPI, excluding mineral fuels, is estimated to have decreased 1.8% in September.

This is an early estimate of the September 1997 movement of the Raw Materials Price Index. These numbers are based on partial returns and other indicators. The regular index will be published at the end of this month.

**Note:** This issue of the early Raw Materials Price Index will be the last published. Maintenance of this early indicator would have to be sponsored on a cost-recovery basis.

For further information, contact Paul-Roméo Danis (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-2848), Client Service Unit, Prices Division. ■

### Industrial monitor on CD-ROM

October 1997

*Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* offers data on 165 manufacturing industries and 33 non-manufacturing industries covering construction, wholesale and retail trade. This up-to-date information is offered on 24 sectors and can be purchased by individual sector or as a complete package.

For each industry, up to 50 variables are organized in the *Table viewer* in five table types: including supply, demand, price, labour/employment, and investment/capital stock. The underlying database is also available via the *Series browser* for more extensive time series analysis and inter-industry comparisons.

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The October 1997 issue of *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* is now available. The full package (15F0015XCB) costs \$995, a savings of more than 80% over the annual subscription price of \$258 per individual sector. You will receive an updated CD-ROM every month. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, or to request a demonstration CD-ROM, contact Milt Ingalls (613-951-9060), Industry Measures and Analysis Division, or your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

### Steel primary forms

Week ending October 11, 1997 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending October 11, 1997, totalled 300 562 metric tonnes, down 0.1% from the week-earlier 300 977 metric tonnes and down 0.03% from the year-earlier 300 641 metric tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 11 957 163 metric tonnes, up 7.2% compared with 11 149 967 metric tonnes for the same period in 1996.

For further information on this release, contact Huguette Montcalm (613-951-9827; Internet: [monthug@statcan.ca](mailto:monthug@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Shipments of rolled steel

August 1997

Rolled steel shipments totalled 1 167 438 tonnes in August, up 1.4% from 1 151 177 tonnes in July and up 3.6% from 1 126 606 tonnes in August 1996.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of August totalled 9 586 936 tonnes, up 1.0% from 9 487 941 tonnes the previous year.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 58 and 122 (series 22-25).**

The August 1997 issue of *Primary iron and steel* (41-001-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515; Internet: [shinand@statcan.ca](mailto:shinand@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■



## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Farm Input Price Index, Second quarter 1997**  
**Catalogue number 62-004-XPB**  
(Canada: \$25/\$83; outside Canada: US\$25/US\$83).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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**The Daily**  
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Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, 65% of Canadian households had access to public transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Measuring Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, sales ending May 31, 1997** 12
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Statistics Canada

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Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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