

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, December 16, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, October 1997** 2
Total manufacturing shipments advanced by 1.5% in October, spurred on by smaller manufacturers in the automotive sector.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

October 1997

Total manufacturing shipments advanced by 1.5% in October, driven by gains by smaller manufacturers in the automotive sector. October's performance contrasts with the movements of the previous two months. Shipments fell 2.6% in August, after an unsustainable increase in July, and then edged down in September. The increase in October shipments represents a shift back to the solid growth trend manufacturers have experienced since early 1996, after a flat 1995.

Unfilled orders posted a 2.1% increase in October, the largest gain since May 1997 and the ninth advance in ten months. Inventories rose 0.7% in October, the eighth increase of the year.

Shipments advance, spurred on by smaller motor vehicle manufacturers

Total manufacturing shipments advanced 1.5% in October to \$37.0 billion. The increase in manufacturing shipments was driven by gains by smaller manufacturers in the automotive sector (non-Big Three companies). However, production difficulties and continued maintenance shutdowns at some plants tempered the increase in the motor vehicle industry.

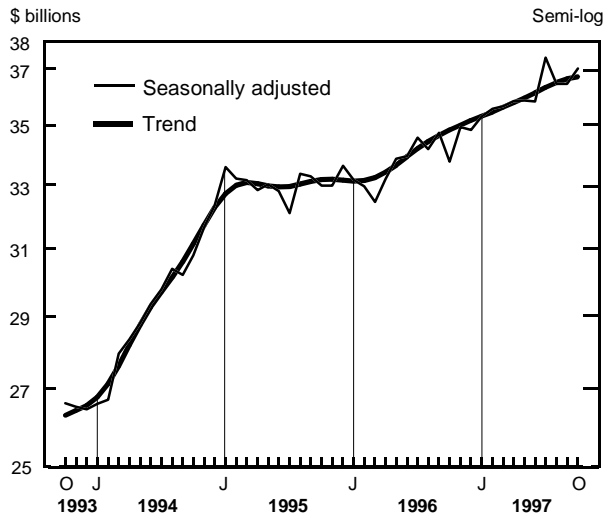
Increases in manufacturing were widespread, occurring in 17 of the 22 major groups, accounting for 83% of shipments. However, three-fifths of the increase was concentrated in three industries: the motor vehicle (+4.2%), motor vehicle parts and accessories (+3.5%), and food (+1.7%) industries.

Note to readers

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders, which will contribute to future shipments, assuming that orders are not cancelled.

Not all orders will be translated into Canadian factory shipments. This is because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to other countries.

Shipments advance, spurred on by smaller motor vehicle manufacturers



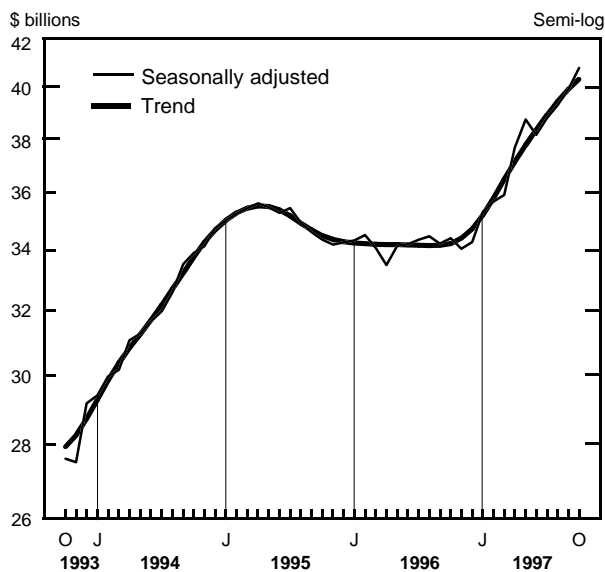
Unfilled orders post another increase

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders, a key determinant of future shipments, rose 2.1% in October to \$40.8 billion. The October increase is the ninth in ten months. Increases in unfilled orders since the beginning of 1997 represent a significant departure from a flat performance in 1996.

The largest increases in unfilled orders in October came from the aircraft and parts (+5.3%), motor vehicle (+3.3%), and fabricated metal products (+2.3%) industries.

The largest offsetting decline came from the machinery (-2.3%) industry.

Unfilled orders post another increase



Inventories up again

Manufacturers' inventories rose 0.7% in October to \$47.6 billion, the eighth 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.

The increase in shipments outpaced the rise in inventories in October, resulting in a reduced inventory-

to-shipments ratio of 1.28 (from 1.30 in September). While the inventory-to-shipments ratio has generally been declining for the better part of two years, the steady growth in inventories in recent months has produced a gradual flattening of the ratio, at historically low levels. (In the short term, a declining inventory-to-shipments ratio indicates that manufacturers have been drawing down their inventories to meet demand; a flat ratio indicates that inventories are being replenished as quickly as they are being used up.)

The major contributors to October's increase in inventories were the machinery (+5.3%), food (+1.9%), and electrical and electronic product (+1.6%) industries. Inventories in the refined petroleum and coal industry (+4.6%) were also up due to decreased demand brought about by higher prices.

The largest offsetting decreases were observed in the aircraft and parts (-0.8%), and other transportation equipment (-17.1%) industries.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9555, 9558, 9559, 9562-9579 and 9581-9595.

For further information, consult the October 1997 issue of *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001-XPB, \$20/\$196), which will be available shortly.

Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available on request. For further information, contact Craig Kuntz (613-951-7092) or Robert Traversy (613-951-9497), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. □

Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		Inventories- to- shipments ratio
	Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	
October 1996	33,756	-2.8	45,653	0.5	34,404	0.5	1.35
November 1996	34,926	3.5	45,985	0.7	34,035	-1.1	1.32
December 1996	34,832	-0.3	45,767	-0.5	34,265	0.7	1.31
January 1997	35,301	1.3	45,471	-0.6	35,325	3.1	1.29
February 1997	35,574	0.8	45,683	0.5	35,704	1.1	1.28
March 1997	35,663	0.3	45,845	0.4	35,924	0.6	1.29
April 1997	35,845	0.5	46,262	0.9	37,655	4.8	1.29
May 1997	35,856	0.0	46,597	0.7	38,736	2.9	1.30
June 1997	35,821	-0.1	46,873	0.6	38,149	-1.5	1.31
July 1997	37,415	4.4	46,361	-1.1	38,799	1.7	1.24
August 1997	36,454	-2.6	46,842	1.0	39,301	1.3	1.28
September 1997	36,451	0.0	47,209	0.8	39,942	1.6	1.30
October 1997	37,013	1.5	47,555	0.7	40,788	2.1	1.28



OTHER RELEASES

Railway carloadings

Nine-day period ending November 30, 1997

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the nine-day period ending November 30, 1997, fell 2.2% to 6.0 million tonnes from the same period of last year. The number of cars loaded decreased 3.2%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 427 000 tonnes, a 7.8% decline from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures advanced 8.5%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) fell 2.6% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 242 million tonnes, up 6.5% from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information on this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; Internet: larocque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Shipments of rolled steel

October 1997

Rolled steel shipments for October totalled 1 247 015 tonnes, down 1.9% from 1 271 524 tonnes in September 1997 and up 1.0% from 1 234 616 tonnes in October 1996.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of October totalled 12 105 475 (revised) tonnes, up 1.7% from 11 905 632 tonnes the previous year.

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

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

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

Canadian crime statistics

1996

Crime statistics for 1996 were first released in July 1997. *Canadian crime statistics, 1996*, now available, presents additional detailed information.

Standard crime tables are presented for Canada, the provinces and territories, as well as all census metropolitan areas.

Also included is a set of 20 tables from the "revised" crime survey based on data collected from 154 police departments in six provinces, representing 47% of the national volume of reported crime. These tables examine the characteristics of victims and the accused (their age and sex, the relationship between the victim and the accused, level of injury, weapon causing injury), as well as the criminal incident itself (location of incident, target of violation, presence of weapons, type of property stolen).

Canadian crime statistics, 1996 (85-205-XPE, \$42) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

Available on CANSIM: (tables 00140103 and 00150202).

For further information on this release, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023; 1 800 387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

International Adult Literacy Survey

1994

The second in a series of monographs from the 1994 International Adult Literacy Survey, released today, presents findings on employee training from an international perspective. A "Highlights" paper, which summarizes these findings, is also available.

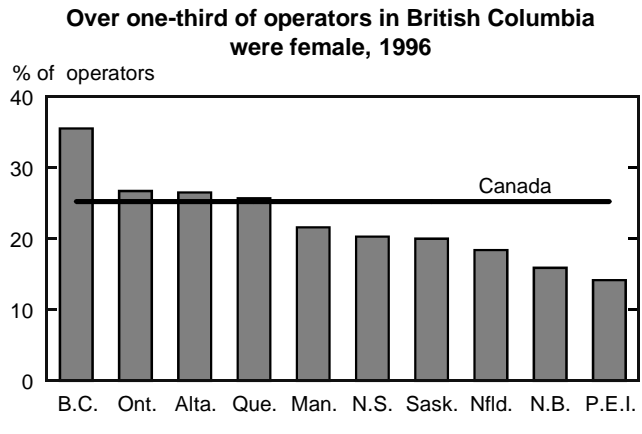
The average employee in Canada received 44 hours of training in 1994. This number is similar to that found in most of the other countries that participated in the International Adult Literacy Survey. The two most common sources of financial support for training courses were employers and employees themselves.

Employee training: An international perspective (89-552-MPE, no. 2, \$10) is now available. See *How to order publications*. You can also download this report from the Statistics Canada website at www.statcan.ca.

For further information on this release, contact Constantine Kapsalis (613-726-6597) or Nancy Darcovich (613-951-4585), Special Surveys Division. ■

1996 Census of Agriculture: Profile of farm operators — erratum

A chart was mislabelled in the addendum to the *Daily* of December 15. The following is a corrected version of the chart.



For further information, contact Lynda Kemp (613-951-3841), Census of Agriculture. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Quarterly report on energy supply-demand in

Canada, First quarter 1997

Catalogue number 57-003-XPB

(Canada: \$43/\$141; outside Canada: US\$43/US\$141).

Exports by country, January-September 1997 (paper version)

Catalogue number 65-003-XPB

(Canada: \$124/\$412; outside Canada: US\$124/US\$412).

Exports by country, January-September 1997

(microfiche version)

Catalogue number 65-003-XMB

(Canada: \$62/\$206; outside Canada: US\$62/US\$206).

Canadian crime statistics, 1996

Catalogue number 85-205-XPE

(Canada: \$42; outside Canada: US\$42).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are riding less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 41 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the last 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
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