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Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

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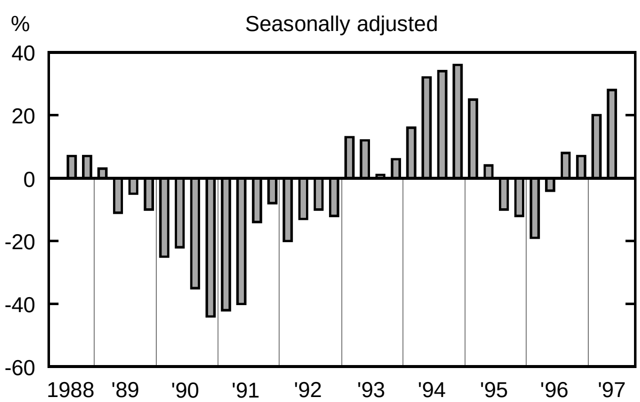
Quarterly Business Conditions Survey, manufacturing industries
April 1997

In the April 1997 Quarterly Business Conditions Survey, manufacturers showed strong satisfaction with current levels of orders received and were still positive about production prospects for the coming quarter. They were less concerned about the current level of finished product inventories and they may increase their work force in the next three months. However, they are less satisfied with the number of unfilled orders on their books.

Satisfaction with orders received stronger

In the April survey, 40% of manufacturers stated that their current level of orders received was rising, up from 30% in January. This continued the upward push of the balance to +28, up 8 points from January. The transportation equipment industries continued to be the major contributors to this upward momentum. The balance of opinion of +28 in April was arrived at by subtracting the 12% of manufacturers who stated that current levels of orders received were declining from the 40% who said orders received were rising.

Balance of opinion for current level of orders received



Manufacturers still positive about production prospects

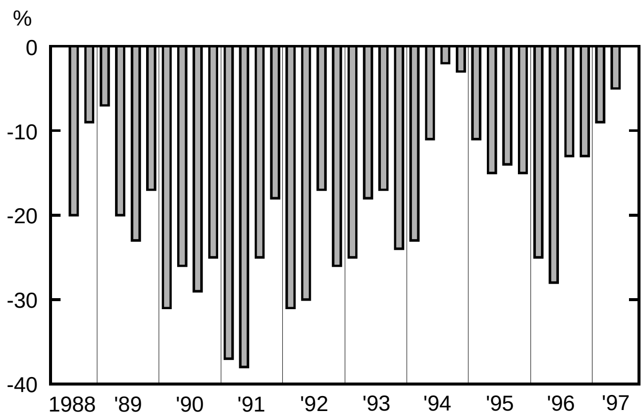
Labour unrest in the transportation equipment industries in October caused large swings in the balance of opinion during the past three surveys. The April balance regarding production prospects during the coming three months decreased 20 points to a more normal +7. This was following survey results in the last two quarters that had been exaggerated by the impact of the October labour dispute. In April, 23% of manufacturers expected to increase production in the coming quarter and 61% indicated they plan to maintain the same level of production.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *The Business Conditions Survey is conducted in January, April, July and October; the majority of responses are recorded in the first two weeks of these months. Results are based on replies from about 5,000 manufacturers and are weighted by a manufacturer's shipments or employment. Consequently, larger manufacturers have a correspondingly larger impact on the results than smaller manufacturers.*
>
> *Except for the data on production difficulties, data in this release are seasonally adjusted.*

Manufacturers less concerned about high inventories

Although the number of manufacturers who felt that the current level of finished products inventories was too high increased 4 points to 18%, this was offset by an 8-point increase (+13%) in the number stating inventories were too low. Consequently, the number of manufacturers stating that finished products inventory levels are about right dropped 12 points to 69% in April. The transportation equipment industries were the major contributors to this shift. This left the balance of opinion for finished products inventories at -5, close to the low levels recorded in the July and October 1994 surveys.

Balance of opinion for current level of finished-product inventory on hand



Manufacturers less satisfied with unfilled orders

The balance of opinion concerning the backlog of unfilled orders was at -7 in April, down from the +1 posted in the January survey. However, almost 80% of manufacturers stated the current backlog of unfilled orders was about normal. The 14% of manufacturers reporting a lower than normal backlog of unfilled orders was twice the 7% who stated their backlog was higher than normal.

Prospects for manufacturing employment increased

The April survey showed that 74% of manufacturers expected little change in the level of their work force in the coming three months. The number stating the level would increase was 15% and the number stating the level would decrease was 11%. This left a balance of opinion of +4, a 3-point improvement over the January survey.

More concern about shortage of skilled labour

A shortage of skilled labour was a concern for 5% of manufacturers, up from 3% in the last survey. As in the previous three surveys, concern about working capital shortages remained at 2%. Concern about shortages of raw materials increased 1 point to 4%, down from the 6% recorded in April 1995. A full 87% of manufacturers stated that they have no production difficulties, compared with 88% in January.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2843-2845 (unadjusted data only).

For further information, please contact Claude Robillard (613-951-3507; Internet: *robilc@statcan.ca* Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section, Industry Division. □

Business Conditions Survey, manufacturing industries

	Apr. 1996	July 1996	Oct. 1996	Jan. 1997	Apr. 1997
	seasonally adjusted				
Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:					
About the same	59	60	41	53	61
Higher	20	23	25	37	23
Lower	21	17	34	10	16
Balance	-1	6	-9	27	7
Orders received are:					
About the same	60	64	59	60	48
Rising	18	22	24	30	40
Declining	22	14	17	10	12
Balance	-4	8	7	20	28
Present backlog of unfilled orders is:					
About normal	64	75	72	75	79
Higher than normal	17	10	12	13	7
Lower than normal	19	15	16	12	14
Balance	-2	-5	-4	1	-7
Finished product inventory on hand is:					
About right	66	79	79	81	69
Too low	3	4	4	5	13
Too high[1]	31	17	17	14	18
Balance	-28	-13	-13	-9	-5
Employment during the next three months will:					
Change little	72	74	75	73	74
Increase	12	13	14	14	15
Decrease	16	13	11	13	11
Balance	-4	0	3	1	4
	unadjusted				
Sources of production difficulties:					
Working capital shortage	3	2	2	2	2
Skilled labour shortage	4	3	4	3	5
Unskilled labour shortage	0	0	0	0	0
Raw material shortage	3	3	3	3	4
Other difficulties	4	2	12	2	3
No difficulties	84	88	78	88	87

1 *No evident seasonality.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Labour income (postponement)

February 1997

The May 2 release of labour income estimates for February 1997 has been postponed to June 2 due to the recent rescheduling of the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours release for February (preliminary). The June 2 labour income release will cover the first quarter of 1997 and will be available at the same time as the gross domestic product.

For further information, contact Jean Lambert (613-951-4051), National Accounts and Environment Division. ■

Sun Exposure Survey

1996

Data are now available for the 1996 Sun Exposure Survey, conducted in September and October of last year. This survey, sponsored by the Institute of Health Promotion Research at the University of British Columbia, was funded by the National Cancer Institute of Canada, the Canadian Dermatology Association and Environment Canada.

The survey gathered information on the attitudes and behaviours related to sun exposure among Canadians 15 years and over. Information collected (within households on a proxy basis) is available for children under the age of 15. Data are available at the national and regional levels.

Among the many different types of damage caused by overexposure to the sun, Canadians reported they were most concerned about skin cancer and sunburns. One in five Canadians reported three or more sunburns between June and August of 1996. Over one-half of individuals reported wearing sunglasses when exposed to the sun. Other sun-protective actions, such as seeking shade, wearing a hat, wearing protective clothing, and using sunscreen, were always or often taken by less than half of the population. The results of the survey indicate that television and magazines are the most common sources of information about sun protection.

The microdata file (82M0019XDB, $2,000) is available on diskette; the accompanying documentation is available on paper (82M0019GPE, $50). Custom tabulations on diskette (82C0019) are available on request.

For further information on this release, contact Jonathan Ellison (613-951-5882; fax: 613-951-0562), Special Surveys Division. ■

Sales of refined petroleum products

March 1997 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 7 223 600 cubic metres in March, up 3.6% from a year earlier. The largest sales increases were recorded for heavy fuel oil (+103 800 cubic metres or +22.7%) and diesel fuel oil (+92 600 or +6.1%).

During the first three months of 1997, sales increased for five of the seven major product groups. The 9.2% advance for heavy fuel oil was due to greater use of the product in Atlantic Canada for the generation of electricity. Higher demand by the transport sector (railways and the truck transport industry) and increased usage by the crude petroleum and natural gas industry led to an 8.6% gain in diesel fuel oil sales. Weak sales of light fuel oil were mainly the result of near-normal temperatures in the first three months of 1997, compared with last year's colder-than-normal readings.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	March 1996	March 1997	March 1996 to March 1997
	'000 of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**6,974.8**	**7,223.6**	**3.6**
Motor gasoline	2,786.0	2,825.0	1.4
Diesel fuel oil	1,508.9	1,601.5	6.1
Light fuel oil	735.9	722.5	-1.8
Heavy fuel oil	456.8	560.6	22.7
Aviation turbo fuels	415.6	408.2	-1.8
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	400.8	435.6	8.7
All other refined products	1,052.0	872.5	-17.1
	Jan. to March 1996	Jan. to March 1997	Jan.-Mar. 1996 to Jan.-Mar. 1997
	'000 cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**21,366.6**	**21,718.4**	**1.6**
Motor gasoline	8,269.9	8,343.7	0.9
Diesel fuel oil	4,489.0	4,873.6	8.6
Light fuel oil	2,649.3	2,383.7	-10.0
Heavy fuel oil	1,712.4	1,870.5	9.2
Aviation turbo fuels	1,206.5	1,236.8	2.5
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	1,148.7	1,159.2	0.9
All other refined products	1,890.8	1,850.9	-2.1

[1] *Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce petroleum-based chemicals.*

Available on CANSIM: matrices 628-642 and 644-647.

The March 1997 issue of *Refined petroleum products* (45-004-XPB, $21/$206) will be available in June. See *How to order publications*.

For further information about this release, contact Gérard O'Connor (613-951-3562; Internet: *oconger@statcan.ca*), Energy Section, Industry Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending April 26, 1997 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending April 26, 1997, totalled 303 753 tonnes, up 5.8% from the week-earlier 287 160 tonnes, and up 14.3% from the year-earlier 265 648 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 4 718 221 tonnes, a 1.1% increase compared with 4 665 666 tonnes for the same period in 1996.

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

Cement

March 1997

Manufacturers shipped 599 023 tonnes of cement in March, up 5.9% from 565 479 tonnes (revised) in March 1996, and up 27.9% from 468 333 tonnes in February 1997.

From January to March 1997, shipments totalled 1 460 370 tonnes, up 9.7% from 1 330 825 tonnes (revised) during the same period in 1996.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 92 and 122 (series 35).

The March 1997 issue of *Cement* (44-001-XPB, $7/$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527; Internet: *rjouber@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products

First quarter 1997

Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products totalled $4.7 million for the first quarter of 1997, a 10.2% decrease from the $5.2 million shipped during the same period last year.

Data for the first quarter of 1997 on manufacturers' shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products are now available.

The 1997 first quarter issue of *Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products* (25-002-XPB, $8/$25) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Keith Martin (613-951-3518), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Civil aviation operating statistics

January and February 1997

Canadian Airlines International Ltd. reported a 2% increase in passenger-kilometres flown (seasonally adjusted) on their international (scheduled and charter) routes in both January and February 1997. Air Canada's international services reported a 1% drop in January and a 1% increase in February.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 385.

Civil aviation data (operational) for Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. for January and February 1997 will be published in the April and May issues of the *Aviation service bulletins* (51-004-XPB, $11/$109). See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Robert Lund (819-997-6188), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

Vending machine operators

1995

Vending machine operators reported sales of $391.4 million in 1995, a 4.8% increase from 1994.

Coffee was the commodity that generated the most sales, with $134.6 million or 34% of total vending machine sales. Soft drinks, with $111.6 million or 29% of total vending machine sales, ranked second; confectionery, with $76.2 million or 19% of sales, ranked third.

Beverage vending machines recorded the largest annual sales increase (+9%), whereas food vending machines sales rose by only 2%. On the other hand, cigarette sales dropped significantly in 1995 (-20%). This follows the downward trend started in the 1980s, and is attributable to changes to federal and provincial legislation on tobacco sales that banned or restricted the location of cigarette vending machines.

Ontario and Quebec continued to hold the largest share of the vending machine market. Over 60% of vending machine sales were generated in these two provinces: 36% in Ontario and 26% in Quebec. The Prairie provinces accounted for 18%, British Columbia (including the Yukon and Northwest Territories), 12%, and the Atlantic provinces 8%.

The 1995 issue of *Vending machine operators* (63-213-XPB, $25) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Gilles Berniquez, Retail Trade Section (613-951-3540), Distributive Trades Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Cereals and oilseeds review, February 1997
Catalogue number 22-007-XPB
(Canada: $15/$149; outside Canada: US$15/US$149).

Crude petroleum and natural gas production, January 1997
Catalogue number 26-006-XPB
(Canada: $19/$186; outside Canada: US$19/US$186).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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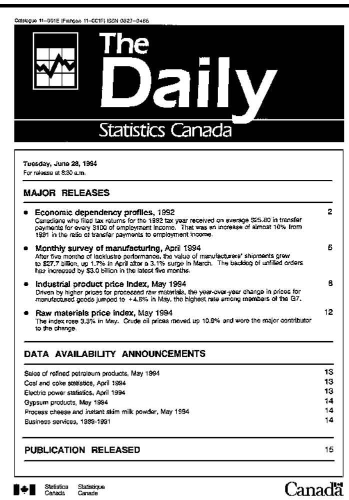
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Economic dependency profiles,** 1992 — 2
  Canadians who filed tax returns for the 1992 tax year received on average $25.80 in transfer payments for every $100 of employment income. That was an increase of almost 10% from 1991 in the ratio of transfer payments to employment income.
- **Monthly survey of manufacturing,** April 1994 — 5
  After five months of lacklustre performance, the value of manufacturers' shipments grew to $27.7 billion, up 1.7% in April after a 3.1% surge in March. The backlog of unfilled orders has increased by $3.0 billion in the latest five months.
- **Industrial product price index,** May 1994 — 8
  Driven by higher prices for processed raw materials, the year-over-year change in prices for manufactured goods jumped to +4.6% in May, the highest rate among members of the G7.
- **Raw materials price index,** May 1994 — 12
  The index rose 3.3% in May. Crude oil prices moved up 10.9% and were the major contributor to the change.

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