Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, August 1, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

MAJOR RELEASES

Quarterly Business Conditions Survey, manufacturing industries

July 1997

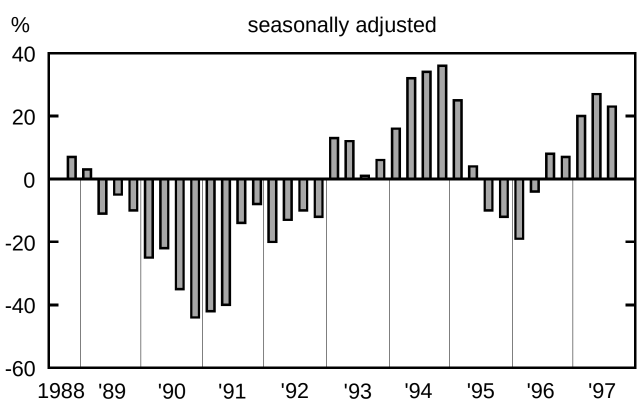
In July, manufacturers remained positive about production and employment prospects for the coming three months and they were slightly concerned about low finished product inventories. Overall, manufacturers were quite satisfied with the current levels of orders received with a large proportion indicating that unfilled order levels were normal.

Satisfaction with orders received remains strong

In the July survey, some 93% of manufacturers reported that their current level of orders received was either about the same or increasing when compared with the previous three months. Almost one in three manufacturers reported that orders received are rising. Only 7% reported declining orders received, a 5-point improvement over the April survey results. This leaves the July balance of opinion at +23, a slight 4-point decrease from the last survey. The balance has remained at +20 or higher in 1997 since becoming positive in the July 1996 survey.

The balance of opinion in July was calculated by subtracting the 7% of manufacturers who stated orders received were declining from the 30% who said that orders were rising.

Balance of opinion for current level of orders received



Note to readers

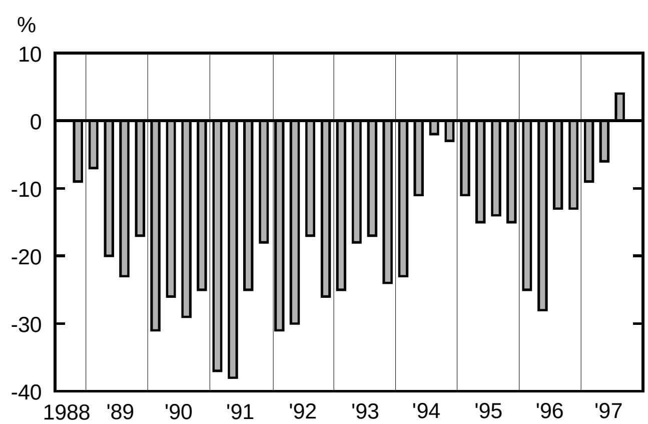
The Business Conditions Survey is conducted in January, April, July and October; the majority of responses are recorded in the first two weeks of these months. Results are based on replies from about 5,000 manufacturers and are weighted by a manufacturer's shipments or employment. Consequently, larger 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.

High finished product inventories no longer a concern

At +4 in July, the balance of opinion concerning the current level of finished products inventories has taken an unprecedented turn above the zero mark. A positive balance in this category indicates that, overall, more manufacturers are concerned about inventory levels being too low rather than too high. With recent Monthly Survey of Manufacturing results indicating increasing finished products inventories, this may be an indication of the impact of strong orders rather than a shortage of inventories. A record 19% of manufacturers indicated that finished product inventories are too low, a 7-point increase over April and a full 15 points higher than the July 1996 survey.

Balance of opinion for current level of finished product inventories on hand



Manufacturers more positive about production prospects over the next three months

Manufacturers' balance of opinion for production prospects increased 4 points to +10 in early July. A full 25% of manufacturers indicated that they were planning to increase production in the coming three months. Such optimism about production prospects is to be expected given manufacturers' positive feelings about new orders and the indication that finished product inventories were too low. Disregarding the large swing in the January 1997 survey (which was caused by the end of labour unrest in the transportation equipment industries) the current balance is the most positive since early 1995. Electrical and electronics products, paper and allied products, refined petroleum and coal products and the machinery industries were major contributors to this increase.

Most manufacturers felt unfilled orders were at a normal level

In the July survey, 80% of manufacturers stated that their current level of unfilled orders was about normal, 10% stated the level was higher than normal, another 10% indicated the level was lower than normal, and the balance of opinion was left at zero — an improvement over the -7 posted in the April survey.

Employment prospects in manufacturing inch upwards

A large proportion of manufacturers (76%) stated there would be little change in their employment level. With another 15% of manufacturers indicating that they would increase employment in the coming three months, the balance of opinion increased 1 point to +6 in July.

More concern about labour shortages reported in Alberta

A shortage of skilled labour continued to impede production for 5% of manufacturers, mostly due to shortages in Ontario and Alberta. For the first time since the end of 1991 a shortage of unskilled labour was reported as an impediment by 1% of manufacturers. This shortage of unskilled labour was strongest in Alberta. Shortages of raw materials (3%) and working capital (2%) were also reported as production impediments. Other production impediments (mostly identified as retooling in the transportation equipment industries) were reported by 10% of manufacturers.

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

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

Business Conditions Survey, manufacturing industries

	July 1996	Oct. 1996	Jan. 1997	April 1997	July 1997
	seasonally adjusted				
Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:					
about the same	60	41	53	62	60
higher	23	25	37	22	25
lower	17	34	10	16	15
Balance	6	-9	27	6	10
Orders received are:					
about the same	64	59	60	49	63
rising	22	24	30	39	30
declining	14	17	10	12	7
Balance	8	7	20	27	23
Present backlog of unfilled orders is:					
about normal	75	72	75	79	80
higher than normal	10	12	13	7	10
lower than normal	15	16	12	14	10
Balance	-5	-4	1	-7	0
Finished product inventory on hand is:					
about right	79	79	81	70	66
too low	4	4	5	12	19
too high[1]	17	17	14	18	15
Balance	-13	-13	-9	-6	4
Employment during the next three months will:					
change little	74	75	73	73	76
increase	13	14	14	16	15
decrease	13	11	13	11	9
Balance	0	3	1	5	6
	unadjusted				
Sources of production difficulties:					
working capital shortage	2	2	2	2	2
skilled labour shortage	3	4	3	5	5
unskilled labour shortage	0	0	0	0	1
raw material shortage	3	3	3	4	3
other difficulties	2	12	2	3	10
no difficulties	88	78	88	86	78

1 *No evident seasonality.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Sales of refined petroleum products

June 1997 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 7 491 300 cubic metres in June 1997, up 5.4% from a year earlier. The largest sales increases were recorded for diesel fuel oil (+150 300 cubic metres or +9.1%) and heavy fuel oil (+49 300 or +10.6%). The "All other refined products category" — which includes products such as propane, refinery fuel gas and asphalt — also increased strongly (+95 400 cubic metres or +10.5%).

During the first six months of 1997, sales increased for six of the seven major product groups. The 15.7% advance for heavy fuel oil was due to greater use of the product in Atlantic Canada to generate 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 8.5% gain in diesel fuel oil sales. Sales of light fuel oil declined 8.7% from the same period in 1996.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	June 1996	June 1997	June 1996 to June 1997
	'000 of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**7 106.1**	**7 491.3**	**5.4**
Motor gasoline	2 998.8	3 108.8	3.7
Diesel fuel oil	1 643.1	1 793.4	9.1
Light fuel oil	211.5	187.1	-11.5
Heavy fuel oil	463.3	512.6	10.6
Aviation turbo fuels	520.2	509.6	-2.0
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	357.2	372.4	4.3
All other refined products	912.0	1 007.4	10.5

	Jan. 1996 to June 1996	Jan. 1997 to June 1997	Jan.-June 1996 to Jan.-June 1997
	'000 of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**42 076.0**	**44 002.7**	**4.6**
Motor gasoline	17 157.6	17 447.5	1.7
Diesel fuel oil	9 361.2	10 157.3	8.5
Light fuel oil	3 647.1	3 328.2	-8.7
Heavy fuel oil	2 984.3	3 451.8	15.7
Aviation turbo fuels	2 574.6	2 728.2	6.0
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	2 212.1	2 380.2	7.6
All other refined products	4 139.1	4 509.5	8.9

[1] *Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.*

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

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

For further information about this release, contact Eleonore Harding (613-951-5708; Internet: *hardele@statcan.ca*), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Railway carloadings
Seven-day period ending July 14, 1997

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending July 14, 1997, increased 11.1% to 4.8 million tonnes from the same period of last year. The number of cars loaded increased 10.3%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 319 000 tonnes, a 2.7% increase from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures show an increase of 13.9%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 10.6% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 138 million tonnes, an increase of 6.0% from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2528, fax: 613-951-0579), Railway Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

Production and value of ranch-raised pelts
1995 (revised) and 1996 (preliminary)

Preliminary data on the production and value of mink and fox pelts are now available for 1996, as are revised data for 1995. Data are tabulated by province.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3400 and 3402-3414.

These data will be available in *Livestock statistics updates* (23-603-UPE, $45/$149) in August 1997. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Bernadette Alain (902-893-7251), Agriculture Division.■

Air charter statistics
Fourth quarter 1996 (preliminary)

Air charter data for the fourth quarter of 1996 are now available.

The July issue of the *Aviation: Service bulletin* (51-004-XPB, $11/$109) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Francesca Thibeault (819-997-6173), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

Annual Survey of Manufactures
1995

The Annual Survey of Manufactures provides information on over 200 different industries. Principal statistics for each industry are released as they become available. Data for the industry listed in the table following are now available.

As of today, principal statistics, at the national level, are available for all industries.

Data for the industry listed in the following table will appear in *Logging industry* (25-201-XPB, $34). The publication will be released at a later date. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, look under Contact in the following table (fax: 613-951-9499; Internet: *desrosi@statcan.ca*). □

Value of shipments

	1994	1995	1994 to 1995	Catalogue number	Contact (613)	
	$ millions		% change			
Industry (SIC)						
Logging (0410)	10,144.8	11,718.1	15.5	25-201-XPB	G. Simard	951-3516

■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat — a weekly review, August 1, 1997
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE
(Canada: $4/$145; outside Canada: US$4/US$145).

Electric lamps (light bulbs and tubes), June 1997
Catalogue number 43-009-XPB
(Canada: $7/$62; outside Canada: US$7/US$62).

Cement, June 1997
Catalogue number 44-001-XPB
(Canada: $7/$62; outside Canada: US$7/US$62).

Asphalt roofing, June 1997
Catalogue number 45-001-XPB
(Canada: $7/$62; outside Canada: US$7/US$62).

All prices exclude sales tax.

How to order publications

Simplify your data search with the *Statistics Canada Catalogue* (11-204E, $16; outside Canada: 16$US).

Its keyword index will guide you to statistics on Canada's social and economic activity.

Order publications by phone:

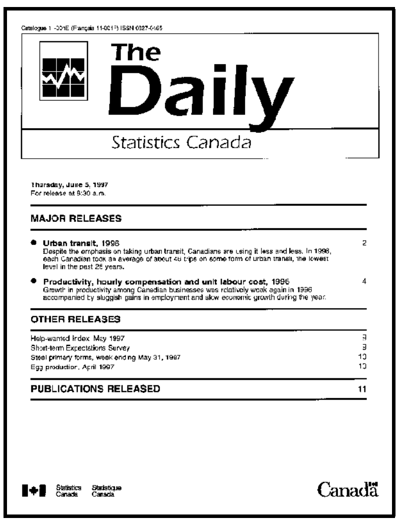
Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:	**1-800-267-6677**
From other countries call:	**1-613-951-7277**
To fax your order:	**1-800-889-9734**
Address changes or account inquiries:	**1-800-700-1033**
Internet:	**order@statcan.ca**

To order a publication by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Operations and Integration Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.

Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.


Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban 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 relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997	9
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	10
Egg production, April 1997	10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin
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.

To receive *The Daily* from the Internet, send an E-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Duncan Currie (613-951-1103)
Head of Official Release: Chantal Prévost (613-951-1088)

RELEASE DATES: AUGUST 1997

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
August 1997		
5	**Building permits**	June 1997
5	**Farm Input Price Index**	Second quarter 1997
6	**Seniors**	1995
7	**Help-wanted Index**	July 1997
8	**Labour Force Survey**	July 1997
11	**Industrial research and development**	1997 intentions
12	**New Housing Price Index**	June 1997
13	**New motor vehicle sales**	June 1997
15	**Travel between Canada and other countries**	June 1997
15	**Composite Index**	July 1997
18	**Livestock statistics**	1991 to 1997
18	**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing**	June 1997
19	**Consumer Price Index**	July 1997
20	**Canadian international merchandise trade**	June 1997
20	**Wholesale trade**	June 1997
21	**Canadian economic observer**	August 1997
21	**Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises**	Second quarter 1997
21	**Canada’s international transactions in securities**	June 1997
22	**Retail trade**	June 1997
22	**Farm cash receipts**	Second quarter 1997
25	**Characteristics of international travellers**	First quarter 1997
25	**University tuition fees**	1997-98
26	**Field crop reporting series: July 31 crop production estimates**	July 1997
26	**Employment Insurance**	June 1997
27	**Industrial Product Price Index**	July 1997
27	**Raw Materials Price Index**	July 1997
28	**Employment, earnings and hours**	June 1997
28	**International travel account**	Second quarter 1997
28	**Union rates**	1977 to 1997
29	**National economic and financial accounts**	Second quarter 1997
29	**Balance of international payments**	Second quarter 1997
29	**Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry**	June 1997

Use the command "DATES" to retrieve this calendar from CANSIM.