



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Monday, November 2, 1998**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Quarterly Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing Industries, October 1998** 2  
With the effects of several labour disputes behind them, manufacturers indicated they were expecting to increase production between October and December.

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### **A statistical profile of Canadian communities**

1996 Census

Starting today, Canadians can obtain a wealth of information about their communities, free of charge, through Statistics Canada's Internet site. The Agency is releasing statistical profiles of almost 6,000 towns, villages and cities, as well as Aboriginal communities. *A statistical profile of Canadian communities* includes data from the 1996 Census of Population, as well as a mapping feature.

Each profile contains data on four major components: population; education; income and work; and families and dwellings. For example, Canadians can find basic information for their community on the highest level of schooling for the population aged 15 and over, as well as its industrial makeup and the composition of the families who live there. Clients can compare data for their community with provincial and national data.

The profiles, in a simple, user-friendly format in both English and French, are available at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca). For further information, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.



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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Quarterly Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing Industries

October 1998

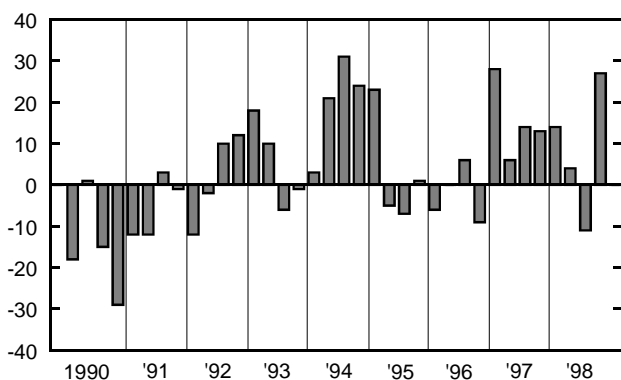
In the October survey, manufacturers indicated that they were planning to increase production during the coming three months. The expected increases were not very widespread, however, with large gains limited to the transportation equipment industries. Overall they were more satisfied with the level of orders received. They indicated slightly more concern about finished product inventories and did not anticipate major changes in their workforce.

#### Production prospects increased

In early October, manufacturers indicated that they had overcome the uncertainty relating to the summer's labour dispute in the United States. The balance of opinion regarding production prospects in the next three months jumped 38 points to +27 in October. The transportation equipment industries were the major contributors to this increase. The low July balance (-11) was caused mostly by parts shortages in the automotive industry.

The balance of opinion of +27 was arrived at by subtracting the 16% of manufacturers who stated that production prospects for the coming three months would be "lower" from the 43% who said prospects were "higher".

**Balance of opinion for expected volume of production next three months vs last three months**



#### Note to readers

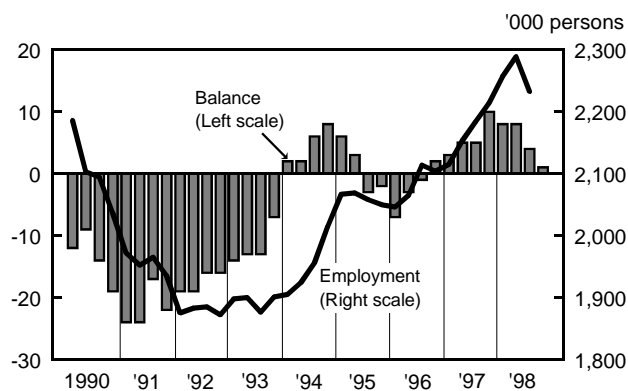
The Business Conditions Survey is conducted in January, April, July and October; the majority of responses are recorded in the first two weeks of these months. Results are based on replies from about 5,000 manufacturers and are weighted by a manufacturer's shipments or employment. Consequently, larger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

The balance of opinion concerning employment prospects for the next three months was down three points to +1 in the October survey. The number of manufacturers stating they would be decreasing their workforce remained even at 13%, with those stating they would increase their workforce passing from 17% in July to 14% in October. There were still some 73% of manufacturers stating that their workforce would change little in the coming three months. According to the Labour Force Survey, there were some 53,200 fewer people employed in manufacturing during September 1998.

**Balance of opinion on employment prospect during the next three months and manufacturing employment**



### **Manufacturers slightly more concerned about the level of finished product inventories**

In the October survey, 79% of manufacturers felt that their current level of finished products inventory was about right, down from 84% in July. With 19% of manufacturers stating inventories were too high and 2% stating inventories were too low the current balance of opinion stood at -17, a five point decrease from the July level. Although negative, the balance would indicate manufacturers were not overly worried about current inventory levels when compared with the balances of -37 and -38 posted in the January and April surveys of 1991. The August 1998 Monthly Survey of Manufacturers results indicated manufacturers were holding some \$16.8 billion in finished products inventory, this is 4.2% higher than the inventory level posted at the end of 1997.

### **Manufacturers positive about the level of orders received**

Manufacturers' balance of opinion concerning the current level of orders received picked up six points to +6 in October. A five-point increase, to 19%, in the number of manufacturers stating new orders are rising was the contributing factor to the balance becoming positive.

### **Manufacturers less satisfied with level of unfilled orders**

In the October survey, the number of manufacturers stating the current level of unfilled orders was about

right was down 7 points to 73%. With 10% stating unfilled orders being higher than normal and 17% stating lower than normal the balance of opinion stood at -7. This is one point lower than the balance posted in the July survey.

### **Skilled labour shortages remain a major concern**

A shortage of skilled labour continued to be a concern for 7% of manufacturers. A shortage of raw materials was a concern for only 3% of manufacturers in October — down from 13% in July. This decrease was mostly attributable to a more normal flow of parts in the automotive industry, due to the end of strikes in the United States. Working capital shortages were indicated as a concern by 2% of respondents, down from 4% in July.

### **Available on CANSIM: matrices 2843-2845.**

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Claude Robillard (613-951-3507; [robilcg@statcan.ca](mailto:robilcg@statcan.ca)), Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. □

**Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing Industries**  
October 1998

	Oct. 1997	Jan. 1998	April 1998	July 1998	Oct. 1998
	seasonally adjusted				
<b>Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:</b>					
About the same	61	68	60	45	41
Higher	26	23	22	22	43
Lower	13	9	18	33	16
Balance	13	14	4	-11	27
<b>Orders received are:</b>					
About the same	57	60	59	72	68
Rising	35	27	18	14	19
Declining	8	13	23	14	13
Balance	27	14	-5	0	6
<b>Present backlog of unfilled orders is:</b>					
About normal	78	74	77	80	73
Higher than Normal	11	14	10	7	10
Lower than Normal	11	12	13	13	17
Balance	0	2	-3	-6	-7
<b>Finished product inventory on hand is:</b>					
About right	75	79	80	84	79
Too low	10	6	3	2	2
Too high <sup>1</sup>	15	15	17	14	19
Balance	-5	-9	-14	-12	-17
<b>Employment during the next three months will:</b>					
Change little	72	74	70	70	73
Increase	19	17	19	17	14
Decrease	9	9	11	13	13
Balance	10	8	8	4	1
<b>Sources of production difficulties:</b>					
	unadjusted				
Working capital shortage	1	3	2	4	2
Skilled labour shortage	9	8	7	7	7
Unskilled labour shortage	1	0	1	0	1
Raw material shortage	2	2	2	13	3
Other difficulties	3	4	2	4	3
No difficulties	83	81	85	74	83

<sup>1</sup> No evident seasonality.



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### **Production and disposition of tobacco products**

September 1998

Cigarette production by tobacco manufacturers substantially increased during September. Total sales also gained proportionally but with the volume of sales higher than production, inventories were slightly reduced.

Cigarette production advanced 20% to 4.0 billion cigarettes, 10% lower compared with the same month last year. Year-to-date production reached 36 billion cigarettes, down slightly compared with the same period in 1997.

Shipments in September were 4.3 billion cigarettes, up 8% from August, but 7% lower than in


September 1997. Year-to-date shipments totalled 36 billion cigarettes, the same volume as a year earlier.



Inventories have been brought down from 6.2 billion cigarettes in May and June, to 3.5 billion at the end of September, 3% less than August and down 17% compared with the closing inventory of September 1997.

#### **Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.**

The September 1998 issue of *Production and disposition of tobacco products* (32-022-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; [zylspet@statcan.ca](mailto:zylspet@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

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Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 3, 1997	
For release at 8:30 a.m.	
<b>MAJOR RELEASES</b>	
• <b>Urban transit, 1995</b> Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• <b>Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995</b> Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow modest growth during the year.	4
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### **Statistics Canada's official release bulletin**

Catalogue 11-001E.

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