



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, December 16, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, October 1998**  
Manufacturers' shipments increased 2.1% in October to \$38.3 billion, largely due to more shipments in the automotive sector. Excluding the automotive sector, shipments rose 0.2%.

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- **Travel between Canada and other countries, October 1998**  
In October, the number of travellers taking overnight trips by plane between Canada and the United States increased in both directions - likely the result of fare discounting by some airlines to compensate for the drop in passengers during the pilots' strikes in September.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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- Steel wire and specified wire products, October 1998

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- Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard, October 1998

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- First release of NAICS-based data

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

October 1998

Manufacturers' shipments rose 2.1% in October to \$38.3 billion. The increase was concentrated in the automotive sector where shipments grew 10.0% over September. Excluding the automotive sector, shipments rose 0.2% in October.

October's gain follows a four-month period of volatility. Manufacturing shipments fell sharply in June and July coincident with the General Motors strike in the United States, rebounded dramatically in August after the strike was resolved, and remained little changed in September. Manufacturing shipments now stand 3.9% above the October 1997 level.

Unfilled orders increased strongly in October, while inventories rose slightly.

The Labour Force Survey reported that employment in the manufacturing sector edged up slightly in November.

#### Automotive shipments increase strongly

Manufacturers' shipments increased in 13 of 22 major groups in October, representing 68.3% of the total value of shipments.

The main contributors to October's growth in shipments were the motor vehicle (+12.7%), and motor vehicle parts and accessories (+4.7%) industries. Shipments in the automotive sector have increased strongly in recent months with the addition of new assembly lines, new model launches, and the resolution of the U.S. General Motors strike.

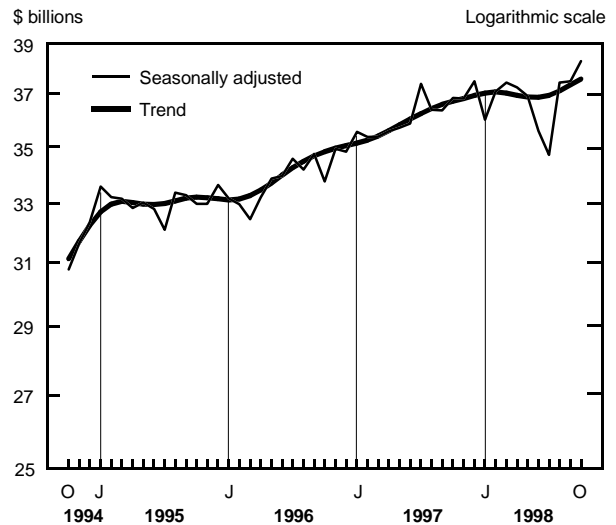
#### Note to readers

*Unfilled orders are a stock of orders which 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 plus the change in unfilled orders. Some people interpret new orders as orders that will lead to future demand. This is inappropriate since the new orders variable includes orders that have already been shipped. Users should be aware that the month to month change in new orders may be volatile, particularly if the previous month's change in unfilled orders is large in relation to the current month's change.*

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

#### Shipments increase in October



The next largest contributor to October's growth was the electrical and electronic products industry (+3.1%) led by a rise in shipments of telecommunications equipment. Shipments from the wood industry (+2.9%) rose for the fourth consecutive

month, supported by increases in construction in both the United States and Canada.

October's rise in shipments mirrored the opinion expressed by manufacturers in the October Business Conditions Survey. Manufacturers, especially in the transportation equipment industry, reported that they were planning to augment production during the last quarter of 1998.

The largest offsetting decreases in shipments were in the food (-1.5%) and machinery (-4.4%) industries.

Manufacturers' shipments increased in 7 of the 12 provinces and territories in October.

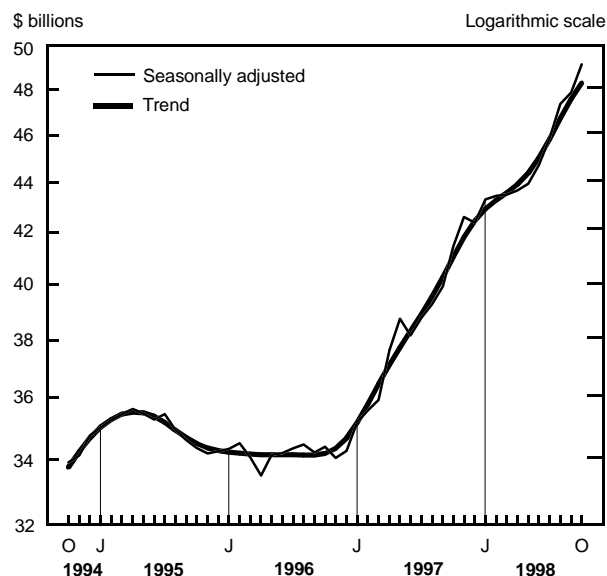
### Shipments by province

|                      | Sept.<br>1998 | Oct.<br>1998 | Sept.<br>to<br>Oct.<br>1998 |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| seasonally adjusted  |               |              |                             |
|                      | \$ millions   |              | % change                    |
| Newfoundland         | 131           | 148          | 12.7                        |
| Prince Edward Island | 86            | 95           | 9.9                         |
| Nova Scotia          | 533           | 566          | 6.2                         |
| New Brunswick        | 677           | 681          | 0.6                         |
| Quebec               | 8,860         | 8,980        | 1.4                         |
| Ontario              | 20,279        | 20,907       | 3.1                         |
| Manitoba             | 903           | 871          | -3.6                        |
| Saskatchewan         | 498           | 475          | -4.7                        |
| Alberta              | 2,644         | 2,627        | -0.6                        |
| British Columbia     | 2,868         | 2,925        | 2.0                         |
| Territories          | 3             | 3            | -0.5                        |

### Unfilled orders increase strongly

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders jumped 2.6% to \$49.1 billion in October. Unfilled orders have increased strongly in the last five months to October, after slowing in winter 1997 to spring 1998. Unfilled orders now stand 18.5% above the October 1997 level.

### Unfilled orders jump in October



In October, the largest increases in unfilled orders were in aircraft and parts (+8.5%), and motor vehicles (+5.8%).

These gains were offset by decreases in fabricated metal products (-2.0%), and electrical and electronic products (-1.1%).

Unfilled orders are often considered to be a key determinant of future shipments. However, since the beginning of 1997, over half of the increase has been in the aircraft and parts industry, where some orders can be stretched out over a number of years before they are completed.

In addition, large orders in any industry may occasionally have a component that is manufactured in other countries.

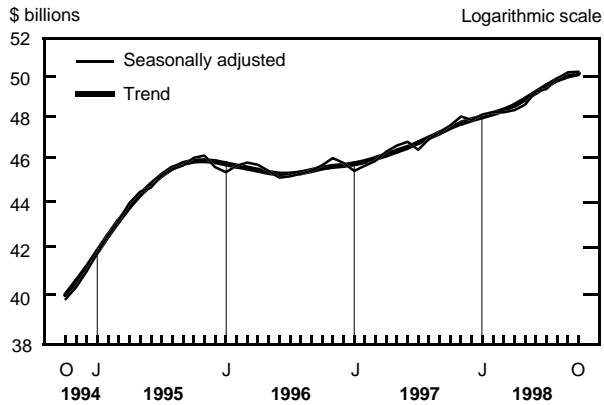
### Inventories rise slightly

Manufacturers' inventories rose 0.1% in October to \$50.3 billion.

The major contributors to October's inventory increase were the aircraft and parts (+2.3%), motor vehicle (+3.3%), and railroad rolling stocks (+5.4%) industries.

The largest offsetting decreases were in the wood (-1.7%), and electrical and electronic products (-1.7%) industries.

**Inventories rise in October**



settled down over the past few months after briefly soaring to a peak of 1.42 in July 1998. With October's result added, the trend of the ratio has started to turn downwards, but it remains four basis points above its level throughout most of 1997.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9555, 9558-9559, 9562-9565, 9568-9579, 9581-9595.**

For more information, consult the October 1998 issue of *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001-XPB, \$20/\$196), available shortly.

Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published are available on request. For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Craig Kuntz (613-951-7092: [kuncrai@statcan.ca](mailto:kuncrai@statcan.ca)), Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section. □

The inventory-to-shipments ratio decreased to 1.31 in October from 1.34 in September. This ratio has

**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 |                                |
| October 1997   | 36,836              | 1.3      | 47,565      | 0.7      | 41,466          | 3.8      | 38,348      | 3.5      | 1.29                           |
| November 1997  | 36,823              | 0        | 48,004      | 0.9      | 42,610          | 2.8      | 37,967      | -1       | 1.3                            |
| December 1997  | 37,492              | 1.8      | 47,815      | -0.4     | 42,394          | -0.5     | 37,276      | -1.8     | 1.28                           |
| January 1998   | 36,015              | -3.9     | 48,079      | 0.6      | 43,315          | 2.2      | 36,936      | -0.9     | 1.33                           |
| February 1998  | 37,093              | 3        | 48,220      | 0.3      | 43,473          | 0.4      | 37,250      | 0.9      | 1.3                            |
| March 1998     | 37,442              | 0.9      | 48,189      | -0.1     | 43,518          | 0.1      | 37,487      | 0.6      | 1.29                           |
| April 1998     | 37,254              | -0.5     | 48,314      | 0.3      | 43,676          | 0.4      | 37,412      | -0.2     | 1.3                            |
| May 1998       | 36,912              | -0.9     | 48,576      | 0.5      | 43,962          | 0.7      | 37,198      | -0.6     | 1.32                           |
| June 1998      | 35,587              | -3.6     | 49,238      | 1.4      | 44,722          | 1.7      | 36,347      | -2.3     | 1.38                           |
| July 1998      | 34,706              | -2.5     | 49,372      | 0.3      | 45,883          | 2.6      | 35,867      | -1.3     | 1.42                           |
| August 1998    | 37,442              | 7.9      | 49,896      | 1.1      | 47,353          | 3.2      | 38,912      | 8.5      | 1.33                           |
| September 1998 | 37,482              | 0.1      | 50,217      | 0.6      | 47,864          | 1.1      | 37,993      | -2.4     | 1.34                           |
| October 1998   | 38,278              | 2.1      | 50,251      | 0.1      | 49,132          | 2.6      | 39,546      | 4.1      | 1.31                           |

**Manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories**

|                | Shipments           |      | Inventories |      | Unfilled orders |      | New orders  |      |
|----------------|---------------------|------|-------------|------|-----------------|------|-------------|------|
|                | seasonally adjusted |      |             |      |                 |      |             |      |
|                | \$ millions         | %    | \$ millions | %    | \$ millions     | %    | \$ millions | %    |
| October 1997   | 29,892              | 0.8  | 44,984      | 0.7  | 36,420          | 3.9  | 31,260      | 3.4  |
| November 1997  | 29,787              | -0.4 | 45,298      | 0.7  | 37,384          | 2.6  | 30,750      | -1.6 |
| December 1997  | 30,154              | 1.2  | 45,141      | -0.3 | 36,881          | -1.3 | 29,651      | -3.6 |
| January 1998   | 29,254              | -3.0 | 45,266      | 0.3  | 37,568          | 1.9  | 29,942      | 1.0  |
| February 1998  | 29,883              | 2.2  | 45,402      | 0.3  | 37,557          | -0.0 | 29,872      | -0.2 |
| March 1998     | 30,131              | 0.8  | 45,435      | 0.1  | 37,539          | -0.0 | 30,113      | 0.8  |
| April 1998     | 30,063              | -0.2 | 45,466      | 0.1  | 37,770          | 0.6  | 30,294      | 0.6  |
| May 1998       | 29,736              | -1.1 | 45,806      | 0.7  | 37,935          | 0.4  | 29,902      | -1.3 |
| June 1998      | 29,889              | 0.5  | 46,290      | 1.1  | 38,590          | 1.7  | 30,543      | 2.1  |
| July 1998      | 29,720              | -0.6 | 46,525      | 0.5  | 39,521          | 2.4  | 30,651      | 0.4  |
| August 1998    | 30,282              | 1.9  | 46,834      | 0.7  | 40,841          | 3.3  | 31,602      | 3.1  |
| September 1998 | 30,213              | -0.2 | 47,054      | 0.5  | 41,122          | 0.7  | 30,494      | -3.5 |
| October 1998   | 30,281              | 0.2  | 47,058      | 0.0  | 42,040          | 2.2  | 31,199      | 2.3  |

## Travel between Canada and other countries

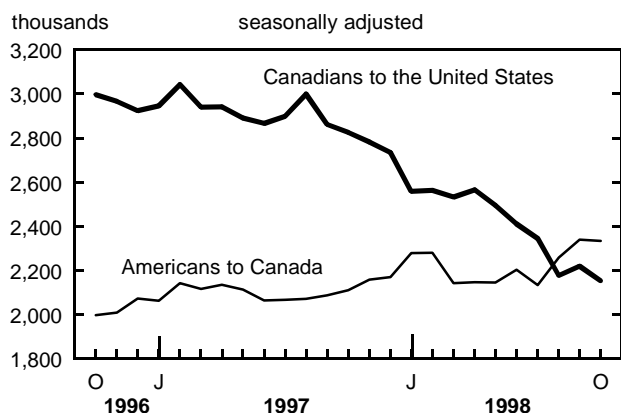
October 1998

In October, the number of travellers taking overnight trips (one or more nights) by plane between Canada and the United States increased in both directions. American visitors made a record 322,000 overnight air trips to Canada, up 11.8% from September. Meanwhile, the number of Canadians travelling to the United States rose 6.3% to 391,000. These increases were likely the result of extensive fare discounting by some airlines to compensate for the drop in passengers during the pilots' strikes in September.

### Fewer same-day car trips by Canadians and Americans

In October, the number of same-day car trips by Americans to Canada was 2.3 million, a decrease of 0.3% from September. Despite this drop, the number of same-day car trips by Americans to Canada is still 12.3% higher than in October 1997 (unadjusted data). This increase was likely the result of the mild weather across Canada this fall and the relative value of the Canadian dollar, which fell from US\$0.72 in October 1997 to US\$0.65 in October 1998.

Same-day automobile excursions



The number of same-day car trips by Canadians to the United States has edged down since early 1996. Canadians made 3.0% fewer same-day car trips to the United States in October than in September. On a year-over-year basis, Canadian same-day car trips to the United States fell sharply to 2.2 million (unadjusted) in October, down 24.1% from October 1997. In October, Americans took 181,000 more same-day car excursions

#### Note to readers

Unless otherwise specified, data in this release are seasonally adjusted, that is, 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.

to Canada than Canadians did to the United States. This is the largest gap since the number of same-day car trips by Americans to Canada started to outnumber the trips by Canadians to the United States during the summer of 1998.

### Car excursions between Canada and the United States

|                                | Americans to Canada    |                        | Canadians to the United States |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
|                                | Oct. 1998 <sup>P</sup> | Oct. 1997 to Oct. 1998 | Oct. 1998 <sup>P</sup>         | Oct. 1997 to Oct. 1998 |
|                                | unadjusted             |                        |                                |                        |
|                                | '000                   | % change               | '000                           | % change               |
| <b>Canada</b>                  | <b>2,229</b>           | <b>12.3</b>            | <b>2,173</b>                   | <b>-24.1</b>           |
| <b>Place of entry/re-entry</b> |                        |                        |                                |                        |
| New Brunswick                  | 139                    | 11.6                   | 356                            | -20.2                  |
| Quebec                         | 116                    | 16.1                   | 200                            | -24.3                  |
| Ontario                        | 1,710                  | 10.9                   | 1,088                          | -21.0                  |
| Manitoba                       | 25                     | 24.2                   | 45                             | -10.0                  |
| Saskatchewan                   | 7                      | 37.1                   | 13                             | -23.3                  |
| Alberta                        | 8                      | 22.0                   | 11                             | -1.5                   |
| British Columbia               | 222                    | 19.6                   | 459                            | -34.3                  |
| Yukon                          | 2                      | 19.0                   | 1                              | 15.7                   |

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

### Fewer overnight trips by Canadians to the United States, but more to overseas countries

On a year-over-year basis, Canadians made 10.2% fewer overnight trips to the United States (down to 1.0 million), but 9.6% more to overseas destinations (up to 289,000) (unadjusted data).

**Trips of one or more nights to Canada by residents of selected overseas countries**

|                          | Oct.<br>1998 <sup>P</sup> | Oct.<br>1997<br>to<br>Oct.<br>1998 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                          | unadjusted                |                                    |
|                          | '000                      | % change                           |
| <b>Europe</b>            | <b>170</b>                | <b>1.4</b>                         |
| France                   | 34                        | 2.0                                |
| Germany                  | 31                        | 4.8                                |
| United Kingdom           | 57                        | -5.3                               |
| Other European countries | 48                        | 7.6                                |
| <b>Asia</b>              | <b>93</b>                 | <b>-10.5</b>                       |
| Hong Kong                | 9                         | -10.3                              |
| Japan                    | 45                        | -3.9                               |
| South Korea              | 5                         | -43.9                              |
| Taiwan                   | 11                        | 3.7                                |
| Other Asian countries    | 22                        | -16.3                              |
| <b>Other regions</b>     | <b>41</b>                 | <b>3.2</b>                         |
| Australia                | 10                        | -4.9                               |
| Mexico                   | 6                         | 15.2                               |
| Other countries          | 24                        | 4.1                                |

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

On a monthly basis, however, Canadians made more overnight trips to both the United States and overseas. Canadians made 357,000 trips lasting one or more nights to overseas countries in October, up 1.2% from September, and continuing an upward trend that began in early 1991. Nonetheless, the United States remains the country most visited by Canadians, with 75.3% of all trips lasting one or more nights. Canadians

made 1.1 million overnight trips to the United States in October, up 2.5% from September.

**More overnight trips to Canada by Americans and overseas residents**

Americans spending at least one night in Canada numbered 1.3 million in October, up 2.2% from September. The number of overnight trips to Canada made by overseas residents also increased in October, up 2.4% from September to 327,000.

On a year-over-year basis, however, there was an increase of 17.8% in the number of Americans spending at least one night in Canada, whereas the number of overseas residents visiting the country dropped by 2.3% (unadjusted data).

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 2661-2697, 5780-6048 and 8200-8329.**

The October 1998 issue of *International travel, advance information* (66-001-PPB, \$8/\$73) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Mark Irving (613-951-1674; fax: 613-951-2909; mark.irving@statcan.ca), or André Cyr (613-951-0277; fax: 613-951-2909; andre.cyr@statcan.ca), International Travel Section, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

**Travel between Canada and other countries**

|   | Aug.<br>1998 <sup>r</sup> | Sept.<br>1998 <sup>r</sup>         | Oct.<br>1998 <sup>p</sup>          | Sept.<br>1998<br>to<br>Oct.<br>1998          |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| seasonally adjusted                       |                           |                                    |                                    |  |
|   | '000                      |                                    |                                    | % change                                     |
| <b>Canadian trips abroad</b>              |                           |                                    |                                    |  |
| Same-day car trips to the United States   | 2,177                     | 2,219                              | 2,153                              | -3.0   |
| Total trips, one or more nights           | 1,357                     | 1,416                              | 1,447                              | 2.2  |
| United States <sup>1</sup>                | 1,010                     | 1,063                              | 1,090                              | 2.5  |
| Car                                       | 551                       | 597                                | 602                                | 0.8  |
| Plane                                     | 369                       | 368                                | 391                                | 6.3  |
| Other modes of transportation             | 89                        | 99                                 | 98                                 | -1.1   |
| Other countries <sup>2</sup>              | 347                       | 352                                | 357                                | 1.2  |
| <b>Travel to Canada</b>                   |                           |                                    |                                    |  |
| Same-day car trips from the United States | 2,259                     | 2,340                              | 2,334                              | -0.3   |
| Total trips, one or more nights           | 1,600                     | 1,605                              | 1,641                              | 2.3  |
| United States <sup>1</sup>                | 1,281                     | 1,286                              | 1,315                              | 2.2  |
| Car                                       | 813                       | 837                                | 834                                | -0.3   |
| Plane                                     | 311                       | 288                                | 322                                | 11.8   |
| Other modes of transportation             | 157                       | 162                                | 159                                | -1.5   |
| Other countries <sup>2</sup>              | 319                       | 319                                | 327                                | 2.4  |
|   | Oct.<br>1998 <sup>p</sup> | Oct.<br>1997<br>to<br>Oct.<br>1998 | Jan.-<br>Oct.<br>1998 <sup>p</sup> | Jan.-Oct.<br>1997<br>to<br>Jan.-Oct.<br>1998 |
| unadjusted                                |                           |                                    |                                    |  |
|   | '000                      |                                    | % change                           |  |
| <b>Canadian trips abroad</b>              |                           |                                    |                                    |  |
| Same-day car trips to the United States   | 2,173                     | -24.1                              | 24,326                             | -18.0  |
| Total trips, one or more nights           | 1,291                     | -6.4                               | 15,388                             | -8.0   |
| United States <sup>1</sup>                | 1,002                     | -10.2                              | 11,743                             | -11.6  |
| Car                                       | 535                       | -19.2                              | 6,816                              | -17.4  |
| Plane                                     | 385                       | 5.3                                | 3,815                              | -1.5   |
| Other modes of transportation             | 82                        | -7.3                               | 1,113                              | -4.4   |
| Other countries <sup>2</sup>              | 289                       | 9.6                                | 3,645                              | 5.7  |
| <b>Travel to Canada</b>                   |                           |                                    |                                    |  |
| Same-day car trips from the United States | 2,229                     | 12.3                               | 22,966                             | 6.2  |
| Total trips, one or more nights           | 1,400                     | 12.7                               | 16,918                             | 6.2  |
| United States <sup>1</sup>                | 1,096                     | 17.8                               | 13,325                             | 10.6   |
| Car                                       | 663                       | 17.9                               | 8,469                              | 11.7   |
| Plane                                     | 321                       | 22.0                               | 3,161                              | 13.0   |
| Other modes of transportation             | 113                       | 6.3                                | 1,695                              | 1.8  |
| Other countries <sup>2</sup>              | 303                       | -2.3                               | 3,593                              | -7.4   |

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary 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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### Steel wire and specified wire products

October 1998

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 70 407 tonnes in October 1998, up 7.1% from 65 732 tonnes in October 1997. Production and export market data for selected commodities are also available.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).**

The October 1998 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products* (41-006-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to Order Publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Donna Faghali (613-951-3518; [faghdon@statcan.ca](mailto:faghdon@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard

October 1998

Oriented strandboard production in October totalled 567 426 cubic metres, an increase of 10.9% from 511 703 (revised) cubic metres in October 1997. Particleboard production reached 230 982 cubic metres, an increase of 13.4% from 203 695 cubic metres in October 1997. Fibreboard production in October was 64 708 cubic metres, up 9.3% from 59 226 cubic metres in October 1997.

For January to October 1998, year-to-date oriented strandboard production totalled 5 201 478 cubic

metres, a 10.9% increase from 4 690 651 (revised) cubic metres for the same period last year. Particleboard production reached 1 973 790 (revised) cubic metres, up 4.1% from 1 896 579 cubic metres in 1997. Year-to-date fibreboard production reached 680 206 cubic metres, up 27.3% from 534 358 cubic metres during the same period in 1997.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 31 (series 2, 3, 5) and 122 (series 8).**

The October 1998 issue of *Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard* (36-003-XPB, \$7/\$62), will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Don Grant (613 951-5998; [grantdo@statcan.ca](mailto:grantdo@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### First release of NAICS-based data

A table showing when Statistics Canada will first release North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) based data, (including the reference period, the level of detail and contact information) is now available. To view this information, go to Statistics Canada's website, ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)), under Concepts, definitions, and methods.

For further information, contact Brian Nemes (613-951-2530), Business and Trade Statistics. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Service bulletin, Surface and marine transport,**  
 Vol. 14, No 4  
**Catalogue number 50-002-XIB**  
 (Canada: \$10/\$62; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$62).

**All prices exclude sales tax.**

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**MAJOR RELEASES**  
 • **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 40 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.

**OTHER RELEASES**  
 • **High-wind index, May 1997** 3  
 • **Statcan's Director's Service** 10  
Starts every 90 days, was ending May 31, 1997  
 • **Egg production, April 1997** 11

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

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