



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Tuesday, October 26, 1999**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, August 1999** 2  
Manufacturers' shipments rose sharply in August, increasing 3.5% to \$42 billion. This increase was chiefly due to a stronger than normal recovery in the motor vehicle industry.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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- Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, August 1999 5
- Innovation, advanced technologies and practices in construction and related industries, 1999 5

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

August 1999

Manufacturers' shipments rose sharply in August, increasing 3.5% to \$42 billion. This increase was chiefly due to a stronger than normal recovery in the motor vehicle industry. Excluding the automotive sector, shipments rose 1.3% in August.

August's gain represents the sixth consecutive monthly increase in manufacturing shipments and results in a new level that has revitalized the upward trend.

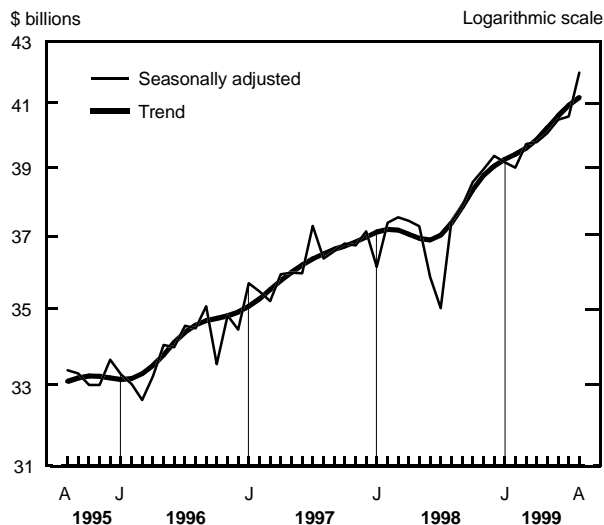
Both unfilled orders and inventories increased in August.

Employment in the manufacturing sector rose 22,000 in September, offsetting the loss in August and continuing the upward trend that began a year ago.

#### Shipments increase sharply

Manufacturers' shipments in August rose in 16 of 22 major groups, representing 89.0% of the total value of shipments.

**The automobile industry surges, shipments accelerate in August**



The largest contributors to the increase were the motor vehicle (+14.1%) and the motor vehicle parts and

#### Note to readers

With the August 1999 release, estimates of shipments, inventories and orders have been revised back to January 1996. These revisions result from benchmarking to the 1996 and 1997 Annual Survey of Manufacturers (ASM). This process, which is generally done on an annual basis, calibrates monthly estimates in the benchmark year to the level of the more comprehensive ASM. The models used for seasonal adjustment are also reviewed and revised where necessary. At the aggregate level, the benchmarking adjustment for shipments in 1996 is negligible and is up slightly in 1997 (+0.2%).

Also, starting in August, a new sample was implemented. The new sample, which linked at the detailed level to prevent data breaks and ensure the continuity of time series, is designed to be more representative of the manufacturing industry at both the provincial and national levels. For more information, a document is available upon request.

Unfilled orders are reserve orders that contribute to future deliveries on condition that they remain active and 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 because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to manufacturers in other countries.

Separate non-seasonally adjusted data on shipments from Nunavut are available with this release.

accessories (+7.1%) industries. The gain in the motor vehicle industry was due to a strong recovery following a number of longer than normal plant shutdowns in July and additional hours worked in August. The strong increase in shipments coincides with the large rise in exports of motor vehicles observed in August's international merchandise trade figures. The increase in the motor vehicle parts and accessories industry was also mainly driven by a stronger than normal recovery in activity. The motor vehicle and motor vehicle and parts industries combined have increased 33.7% since August 1998. The large increase in August in the transportation equipment industry reflects the optimism reported by manufacturers in this sector in the July Business Conditions Survey.

The largest offsetting decreases in shipments in August were observed in the wood industry (-3.5%),

due mainly to a 4.4% drop in prices in August, and in the aircraft and aircraft parts industry (-6.5%).

Manufacturers' shipments increased in nine provinces. Only Newfoundland (-14.7%) and the territories (-7.2%) recorded declines.

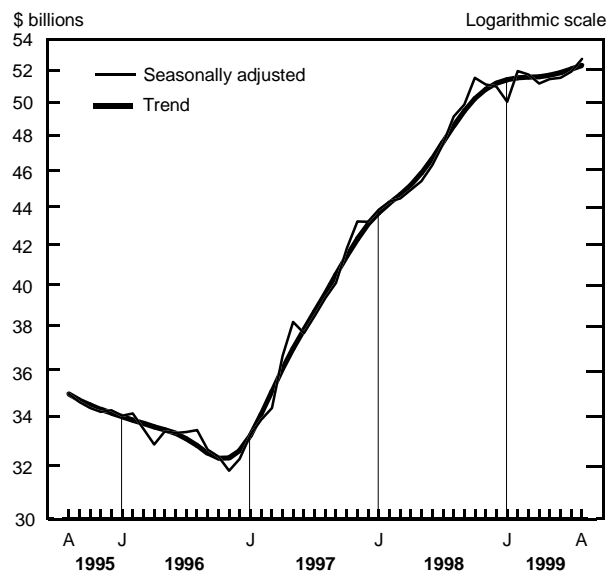
### Shipments by province and territory

	July 1999	Aug. 1999	July to Aug. 1999
seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change
Newfoundland	176	150	-14.7
Prince Edward Island	78	80	1.7
Nova Scotia	617	670	8.7
New Brunswick	750	766	2.1
Quebec	9,325	9,573	2.7
Ontario	22,264	23,282	4.6
Manitoba	830	848	2.2
Saskatchewan	510	512	0.5
Alberta	2,904	2,963	2.0
British Columbia	3,109	3,123	0.5
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	4	4	-7.2

### Unfilled orders continue to swell

The value of unfilled orders rose 1.6% in August, reaching \$52.7 billion. This advance marks the fourth consecutive increase in unfilled orders and has led to a moderate increase in the trend.

#### Unfilled orders increase in August

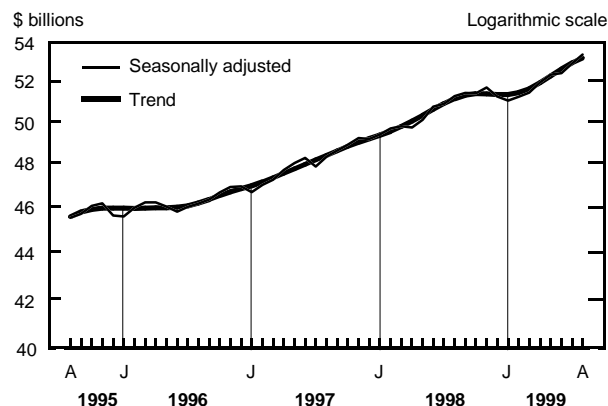


The rise in unfilled orders is mainly attributable to the aircraft and parts (+1.7%), the electrical and electronic products (+3.6%) and the motor vehicles (+2.8%) industries.

### Inventories continue moving up

Manufacturers' inventories rose 0.9% in August to \$53.4 billion. This increase was chiefly attributable to the wood industry (+3.1%) and the aircraft and aircraft parts industry (+1.8%). After dropping in December and January, inventories maintained their upward trend in August, rising for the seventh consecutive month. The increase in inventories, in combination with the stronger increase in shipments, led to a decline in the inventories-to-shipments ratio from 1.30 in July to 1.27 in August. The trend of this ratio continues to decline and is approaching historically low levels.

#### Inventories continue to increase in August



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

The August 1999 issue of the *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001-XPB, \$20/\$196) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available on request. For more 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. □

## Shipments, inventories and orders for all manufacturing Industries

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventories to shipments ratio
	seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	
August 1998	37,403	6.9	51,238	0.7	49,132	3.5	39,044	7.8	1.37
September 1998	37,858	1.2	51,413	0.3	49,858	1.5	38,584	-1.2	1.36
October 1998	38,570	1.9	51,393	-0.0	51,517	3.3	40,229	4.3	1.33
November 1998	38,938	1.0	51,677	0.6	51,105	-0.8	38,526	-4.2	1.33
December 1998	39,365	1.1	51,229	-0.9	50,978	-0.2	39,238	1.8	1.30
January 1999	39,172	-0.5	51,016	-0.4	50,027	-1.9	38,221	-2.6	1.30
February 1999	38,999	-0.4	51,215	0.4	51,945	3.8	40,917	7.1	1.31
March 1999	39,716	1.8	51,424	0.4	51,736	-0.4	39,506	-3.4	1.29
April 1999	39,779	0.2	51,952	1.0	51,174	-1.1	39,217	-0.7	1.31
May 1999	40,057	0.7	52,331	0.7	51,439	0.5	40,322	2.8	1.31
June 1999	40,472	1.0	52,422	0.2	51,528	0.2	40,560	0.6	1.30
July 1999	40,565	0.2	52,911	0.9	51,918	0.8	40,956	1.0	1.30
August 1999	41,971	3.5	53,377	0.9	52,738	1.6	42,790	4.5	1.27

Note: With this release, estimates of shipments, inventories and orders have been revised. See Note to readers for more information.

## Manufacturing industries excluding motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
August 1998	30,381	1.5	48,372	0.6	41,800	3.8	31,893	3.1
September 1998	30,479	0.3	48,509	0.3	42,266	1.1	30,945	-3.0
October 1998	30,543	0.2	48,487	-0.0	43,561	3.1	31,837	2.9
November 1998	30,778	0.8	48,609	0.3	43,296	-0.6	30,513	-4.2
December 1998	31,050	0.9	48,308	-0.6	43,540	0.6	31,294	2.6
January 1999	30,760	-0.9	48,143	-0.3	42,930	-1.4	30,151	-3.7
February 1999	30,664	-0.3	48,419	0.6	44,694	4.1	32,428	7.6
March 1999	31,287	2.0	48,649	0.5	44,822	0.3	31,415	-3.1
April 1999	31,423	0.4	49,158	1.0	44,527	-0.7	31,128	-0.9
May 1999	31,596	0.5	49,509	0.7	45,071	1.2	32,140	3.2
June 1999	31,842	0.8	49,645	0.3	45,003	-0.2	31,774	-1.1
July 1999	32,170	1.0	49,967	0.6	45,448	1.0	32,615	2.6
August 1999	32,582	1.3	50,477	1.0	46,106	1.4	33,240	1.9

Note: With this release, estimates of shipments, inventories and orders have been revised. See Note to readers for more information.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### **Pulpwood and wood residue statistics**

August 1999

Pulpwood receipts in August totalled 2 688 962 cubic metres, up 9.3% from 2 459 499 cubic metres in August 1998. Wood residue receipts reached 7 094 586 cubic metres, up 18.7% from 5 978 888 cubic metres compared with August a year earlier. Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue amounted to 9 499 648 cubic metres, up 13.1% from 8 399 362 cubic metres in August 1998.

The closing inventory of pulpwood and wood residue increased 4.4% to 12 423 829 cubic metres, up from 11 902 913 cubic metres in August 1998. Year-to-date consumption of pulpwood and wood residue (75 254 142 cubic metres) increased 9.2% from 68 890 554 cubic metres for the same period in 1998.

#### **Available on CANSIM: matrix 54.**

The August 1999 issue of *Pulpwood and wood residue statistics* (25-001-XIB, \$6/\$55) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; [simales@statcan.ca](mailto:simales@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### **Innovation, advanced technologies and practices in construction and related industries**

1999 (preliminary data)

Data on a limited number of variables from the Innovation, Advanced Technologies and Practices in the Construction and Related Industries Survey for 1999 are now available.

To order data, or for more information about the survey, contact Frances Anderson (613-951-6307; [andefra@statcan.ca](mailto:andefra@statcan.ca)), or Susan Schaan (613-951-1953; [schasus@statcan.ca](mailto:schasus@statcan.ca)), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Pulpwood and wood residue statistics**, August 1999  
**Catalogue number 25-001-XIB**  
(Canada: \$6/\$55).

**Telephone statistics**, first quarter 1999  
**Catalogue number 56-002-XIB**  
(Canada: \$21/\$40).

**Construction price statistics**, second quarter 1999  
**Catalogue number 62-007-XPB**  
(Canada: \$24/\$79; outside Canada: US\$24/US\$79).

**Canadian international merchandise trade**,  
August 1999  
**Catalogue number 65-001-XIB**  
(Canada: \$14/\$141).

**Canadian international merchandise trade**,  
August 1999  
**Catalogue number 65-001-XPB**  
(Canada: \$19/\$188; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$188).

**All prices exclude sales tax.**

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Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 3, 1999	
For release at 8:30 a.m.	
<b>MAJOR RELEASES</b>	
• <b>Urban transit, 1995</b>	2
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.	
• <b>Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995</b>	4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.	
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## Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

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