



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, December 15, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, October 1999** 2
 Manufacturers' shipments declined 0.7% in October to \$42.0 billion. The main contributor to this decrease was the motor vehicle industry, which experienced some production difficulties in October.

OTHER RELEASES

- Public sector employment, third quarter 1999 5
- For-hire motor carriers of freight (top carriers), third quarter 1999 5
- Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard, October 1999 5
- Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, October 1999 5
- Light bulbs and tubes, November 1999 6
- Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM, fourth quarter 1999 6
- Financial education data 6

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 7



MAJOR RELEASES

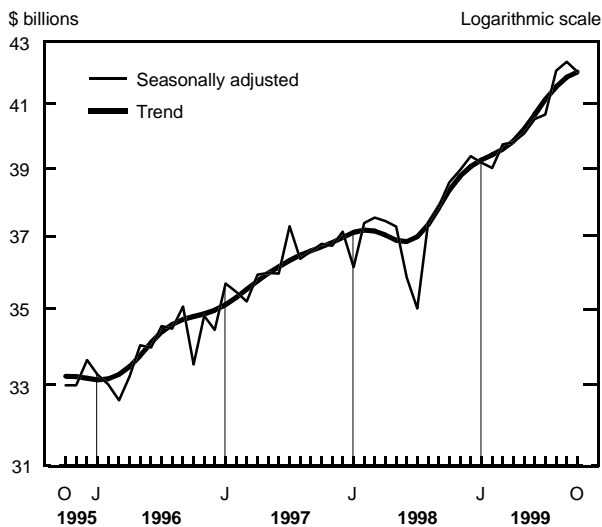
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

October 1999

Manufacturers' shipments declined 0.7% in October to \$42.0 billion. The main contributor to this decrease was the motor vehicle industry, which experienced some production difficulties in October.

October's decline offset the increase registered in September (+0.7%), leading to a pause in the upward movement observed since March 1999. Despite this decrease, the level of shipments remained the same as in August (\$42.0 billion), maintaining the upward trend that began in the second half of 1998.

Increase in shipments pauses in October



Both unfilled orders and inventories increased in October.

The number of jobs in the manufacturing sector was down by 22,000 in November, only partially eliminating the strong increase (+55,000) in October. Employment in this sector continued the strong upward trend that began in September 1998, having increased by 231,000 jobs (+11.1%) since then.

Note to readers

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments assuming that the 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 because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to manufacturers in other countries.

Pause in shipments after seven months of increases

Manufacturers' shipments in October decreased in 13 of the 22 major groups, representing 77.1% of the total value of shipments.

The largest contributor to the decrease was the motor vehicles industry (-3.3%), which experienced some production problems. As a result, inventories of raw materials in this industry were up. Other industries that registered significant decreases were wood (-5.1%) — the consequence of a 4.6% price drop — and paper and allied products (-1.8%), partly attributable to lower demand from the United States.

The main increases in shipments that offset these decreases were in the electrical and electronic products industry (+3.9%), where the communications and other electronic equipment sub-component was the main contributor, and the metal fabricating industries (+2.6%), where gains were mainly attributable to the hardware, tools and implements industry.

In October, manufacturers' shipments rose in five provinces and the territories: Prince Edward Island (+17.4%), Nova Scotia (+7.4%), New Brunswick (+1.8%), Saskatchewan (+3.4%), Alberta (+1.0%) and the territories (+2.8%).

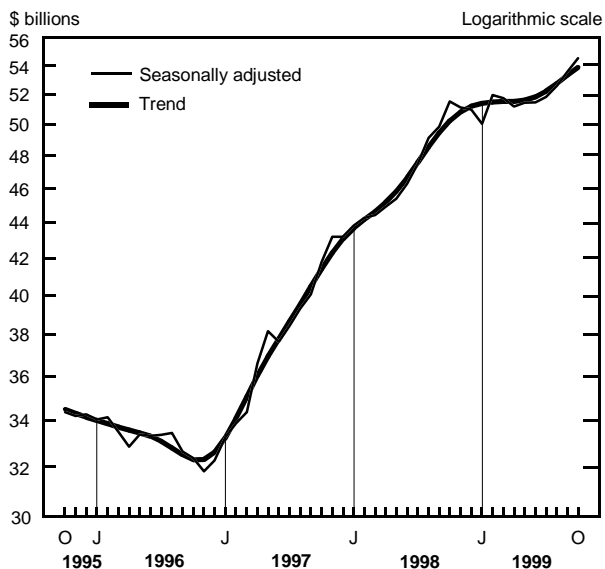
Shipments by province and territory

	Sept. 1999	Oct. 1999	Sept. to Oct. 1999
seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change
Newfoundland	175	154	-12.3
Prince Edward Island	83	98	17.4
Nova Scotia	635	681	7.4
New Brunswick	770	784	1.8
Quebec	9,719	9,675	-0.4
Ontario	23,339	23,040	-1.3
Manitoba	877	852	-2.8
Saskatchewan	520	537	3.4
Alberta	2,999	3,029	1.0
British Columbia	3,208	3,159	-1.5
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	4	4	2.8

Unfilled orders continue their rise

The value of unfilled orders advanced 1.8% in October, reaching \$54.5 billion. This was the sixth consecutive rise in unfilled orders, maintaining the upward trend.

Unfilled orders increase in October



This rise is mainly attributable to the transportation equipment (+2.0%) and electrical and electronic products (+4.9%) industries. In the latter industry,

the increase in unfilled orders, as with shipments, was concentrated in the communications and other electronic equipment sub-component.

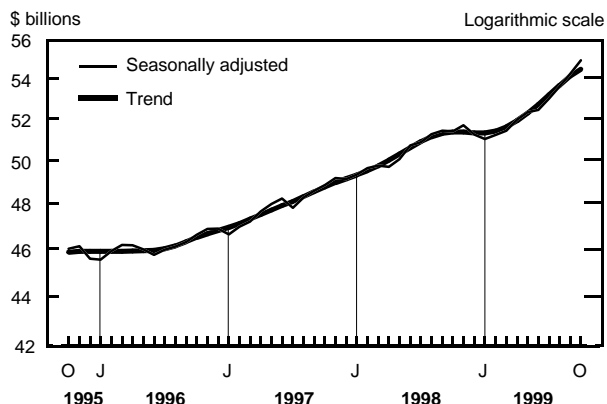
Increase in inventories maintains upward trend

Manufacturers' inventories rose 1.3% in October to \$54.9 billion. October's gain was chiefly attributable to the motor vehicle industry (+21.9%), which had production problems that led to a buildup of motor vehicle parts, and the electrical and electronic products industry (+2.7%).

October's increase in inventories maintains the upward trend that began in February this year following decreases in December and January.

With October's decrease in shipments and increase in inventories, the inventory-to-shipments ratio increased from 1.28 to 1.31.

Inventories continue to rise in October



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

The October 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), Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. □

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 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	40,501	1.1	52,427	0.2	51,461	0.0	40,523	0.5	1.29
July 1999	40,640	0.3	52,987	1.1	51,825	0.7	41,003	1.2	1.30
August 1999	42,039	3.4	53,622	1.2	52,578	1.5	42,793	4.4	1.28
September 1999	42,328	0.7	54,251	1.2	53,556	1.9	43,306	1.2	1.28
October 1999	42,013	-0.7	54,938	1.3	54,515	1.8	42,973	-0.8	1.31



OTHER RELEASES

Public sector employment

Third quarter 1999 (preliminary)

The public sector employed 2.7 million people during the third quarter of 1999. Public employment remained basically unchanged, decreasing only 0.1% or 3,600 jobs from the third quarter of 1998.

A 0.4% decline in government employment essentially explains the drop in public sector employment. The government work force, which consists of individuals who work for the federal, provincial/territorial and local governments, reached 2.4 million people in the third quarter of 1999.

Employment in government business enterprises increased 2.2% over the same period, employing about 265,000 people from July to September 1999.

These data, as well as other data on public sector employment, wages and salaries are available on CANSIM and through custom tabulation.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2720, 2860, 2863, 2864 and 2866.

For general enquiries on the Public Institutions Division's products and services, or for special tabulations, contact Jo-Anne Thibault (613-951-0767; fax: 613-951-0661; jo-anne.thibault@statcan.ca) Data Dissemination, Public Institutions Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Alain Paquet (613-951-8565; paquala@statcan.ca), Public Institutions Division. ■

For-hire motor carriers of freight (top carriers)

Third quarter 1999

The top 83 for-hire motor carriers (Canada-based trucking companies earning \$25 million or more annually) generated operating revenues of \$1.57 billion in the third quarter of 1999. The third quarter total reflects the addition of nine top carriers over the same period in 1998 and a 3% increase in the average revenue per carrier.

Operating expenses incurred by top carriers continued to hold steady, totalling \$1.46 billion for the quarter. The operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenues) for top for-hire carriers improved by one point to 0.93 compared with

the 0.94 posted in the third quarter of 1998 (any ratio greater than 1.00 represents an operating loss).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Gilles Paré (613-951-2517; fax: 613-951-0579; paregil@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard

October 1999

Oriented strandboard production in October totalled 672 697 cubic metres, up 16.9% from 575 262 (revised) cubic metres in October 1998. Particleboard production reached 210 926 cubic metres, down 8.7% from 230 982 cubic metres in October 1998. Fibreboard production in October was 95 555 cubic metres, up 47.7% from 64 708 cubic metres in October 1998.

Year-to-date oriented strandboard production totalled 6 445 027 cubic metres, a 23.7% increase from 5 209 314 (revised) cubic metres compared with the same period last year. Particleboard production reached 2 033 483 cubic metres, up 3.0% from 1 973 790 cubic metres in 1998. Year-to-date fibreboard production amounted to 863 087 cubic metres, up 26.9% from 680 206 cubic metres during the same period in 1998.

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

The October 1999 issue of *Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard* (36-003-XIB, \$5/\$47) 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), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Pulpwood and wood residue statistics

October 1999

Pulpwood receipts in October totalled 3 011 800 cubic metres, up 20.5% from 2 498 432 cubic metres in October 1998. Wood residue receipts reached 6 998 857 cubic metres, up 2.3% from 6 838 837 cubic

metres in October 1998. Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue rose 6.0% to 9 330 682 cubic metres from 8 803 794 cubic metres in October 1998.

The closing inventory of pulpwood and wood residue increased 0.8% to 13 440 687 cubic metres, up from 13 335 622 cubic metres in October 1998. Year-to-date consumption of pulpwood and wood residue (93 638 837 cubic metres) increased 9.1% from 85 852 026 cubic metres a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 54.

The October 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), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Light bulbs and tubes

November 1999

Manufacturers sold 28.2 million light bulbs and tubes in November, up 10.6% from the 25.5 million sold a year earlier.

Year-to-date sales at the end of November totalled 254.2 million light bulbs and tubes, down 3.2% from the 262.6 million sold over the same period in 1998.

The November 1999 issue of *Electric lamps, light bulbs and tubes* (43-009-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this

release, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-0600; kowarus@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM

Fourth quarter 1999

Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM (61-517-XCB) is now available. An annual subscription with quarterly updates is \$995 and a single copy without updates is \$350. The *Inter-corporate ownership 1998 directory* is also available (61-517-XPB, \$350). See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Jeannine D'Angelo (613-951-2604) or Steve Dufour (613-951-2651), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. ■

Financial education data

Financial education revenue and expenditure data for 1996/97 (actual), 1997/98 (preliminary) and 1998/99 (estimated) are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 00590203 to 00590207.

To obtain data or for extractions from CANSIM, contact Sharon-Anne Gibbs (613-951-1503). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Bernard Bourgoïn (613-951-1506) or Anne Drolet (613-951-1498), Centre for Education Statistics. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Field crop reporting series, seasonal, vol. 78, no. 1
Catalogue number 22-002-XIB
(Canada: \$11/\$66).

Field crop reporting series, seasonal, vol. 78, no. 2
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(Canada: \$11/\$66).

Field crop reporting series, seasonal, vol. 78, no. 3
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Field crop reporting series, seasonal, vol. 78, no. 6
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Field crop reporting series, seasonal, vol. 78, no. 7
Catalogue number 22-002-XIB
(Canada: \$11/\$66).

Field crop reporting series, seasonal, vol. 78, no. 8
Catalogue number 22-002-XIB
(Canada: \$11/\$66).

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

**Particleboard, oriented strandboard and
fibreboard**, October 1999
Catalogue number 36-003-XIB
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Electric lamps, light bulbs and tubes,
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Catalogue number 43-009-XIB
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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 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 60 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 notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **High-wire index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 10
- **EGG production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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