



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

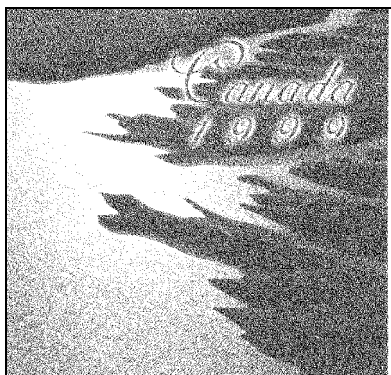
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, March 1999** 3
Manufacturers' shipments increased 2.0% in March to \$39.8 billion. The increase was widespread, with shipments rising in 16 of the 22 major groups and in 11 of the 12 provinces and territories.

- **Divorces, 1997** 6
The number of marriages ending in divorce fell for the third straight year in 1997, declining in eight provinces and both territories. A total of 67,408 couples divorced, down 5.8% from the previous year to reach the lowest number since 1985. These marriages ending in divorce do not take into account unofficial separations.

(continued on following page)



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Combining facts, figures and commentary with compelling visuals, the *Canada Year Book 1999 on CD-ROM* reflects the reality of today's Canada. Find out about the environment, the people, the economy and the nation in this multi-faceted resource tool.

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The *Canada Year Book 1999 on CD-ROM* (11-402-XCB99001, \$74.95 plus \$5.00 shipping/handling and applicable taxes; outside Canada, US\$74.95 with shipping and handling included) is now available. Save by getting the CD-ROM and book combination package (10-3005XKE99001, \$123.41 plus \$5.00 shipping/handling and applicable taxes; outside Canada, US\$123.41 with shipping and handling included). For more information, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. See a free Internet demonstration at <http://142.206.72.128/Canada99.htm>.



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MAJOR RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

March 1999

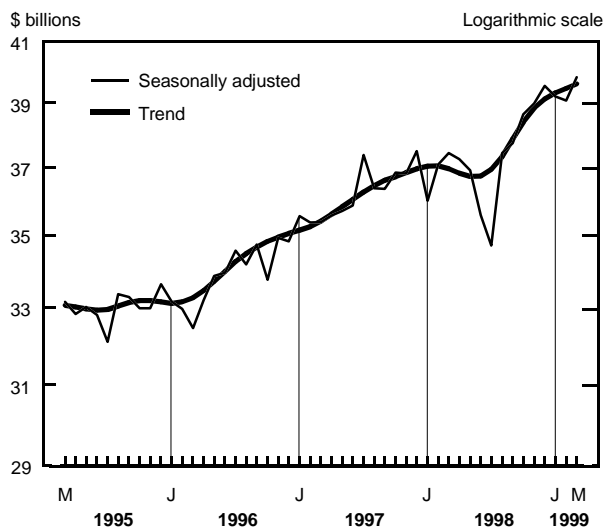
Manufacturers' shipments increased 2.0% in March to \$39.8 billion. The increase was widespread, with shipments rising in 16 of the 22 major groups and in 11 of the 12 provinces and territories.

Following minor declines in January and February, manufacturers' shipments registered the largest increase since October 1998. The trend for shipments remained positive in March although it has slowed slightly in recent months.

Unfilled orders slipped in March whereas inventories edged upward.

April's Business Conditions Survey reported that 32% of manufacturers expected to increase production over the next three months. Manufacturers were confident that this could be done with the same size work force, which, according to April's Labour Force Survey, grew by 80,000 in the manufacturing sector since the beginning of the year.

All-round increase in shipments in March



Note to readers

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders that 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 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.

Widespread increase in shipments

Manufacturers' shipments increased in 16 of 22 major groups in March, representing 81.9% of the total value of shipments.

Shipments also rose in 11 of the 12 provinces and territories. Newfoundland was the only province with a decrease (-2.6%) in March, after an 11.4% increase in February.

Shipments by province

	Feb. 1999	March 1999	Feb. to March 1999
seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change
Newfoundland	166	162	-2.6
Prince Edward Island	81	86	6.0
Nova Scotia	538	549	2.0
New Brunswick	642	663	3.4
Quebec	8,919	9,067	1.7
Ontario	21,834	22,138	1.4
Manitoba	895	903	0.9
Saskatchewan	492	507	3.1
Alberta	2,583	2,755	6.6
British Columbia	2,916	2,999	2.8
Northwest Territories	3	3	9.4

The largest contributor to March's increase was in the refined petroleum and coal (+10.1%) industry where, according to the Industrial Product Price Index, the price of refined petroleum products rose 4.4% in March.

In order of absolute value, shipments increased in the motor vehicle (+1.6%) and aircraft and parts

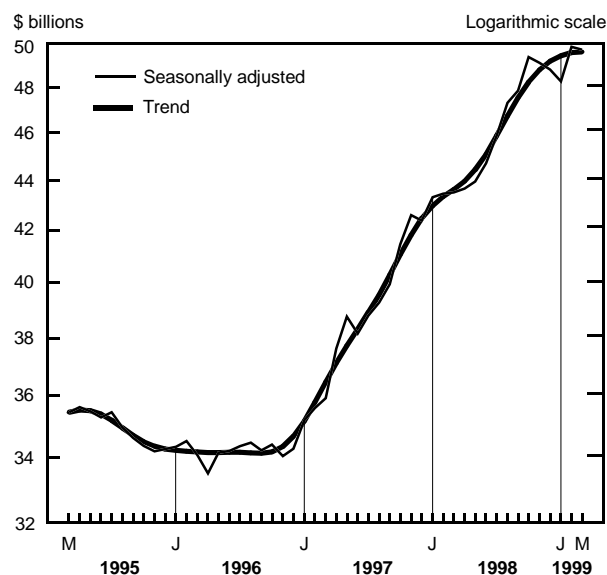
(+7.4%) industries. Shipments in the primary metals industry rose 2.6%, concurrent with anti-dumping duties (ranging from 32% to 77%) imposed in March by Revenue Canada on Canadian imports of hot-rolled steel from France, Russia, Romania and Slovakia. Shipments in the wood industry also increased (+2.5%), in part due to higher wood product prices.

Small declines in shipments were observed, in order of absolute value, in the food (-0.3%) and printing and publishing (-0.9%) industries.

Unfilled orders slipped

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders slipped 0.3% to \$49.7 billion in March. However, the trend in unfilled orders remained historically high. April's Business Conditions Survey reported that 79% of manufacturers thought their current level of unfilled orders was about normal.

Unfilled orders slip in March



Unfilled orders decreased in the motor vehicle (-5.0%) and electrical and electronic products (-2.6%) industries in March.

In terms of magnitude, the largest offsetting increase in unfilled orders in March was in the aircraft and parts (+2.3%) industry. Gains were also reported in the machinery (+2.4%) and other manufacturing (+9.9%) industries.

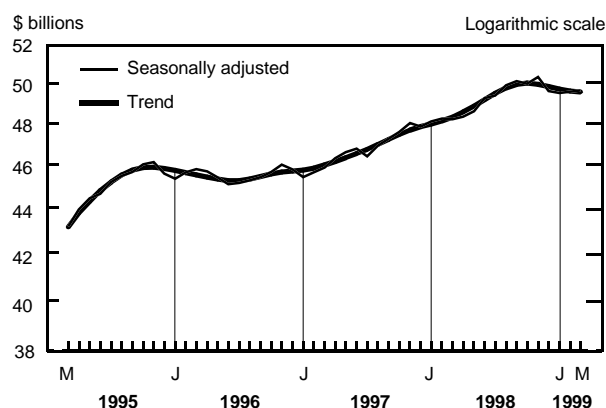
The backlog of manufacturers' unfilled orders has increased strongly since the end of 1996. The trend

has slowed in recent months from the strong increases observed throughout 1997 and 1998. The majority of the increase observed since the end of 1996 has been concentrated in the aircraft and parts industry where orders can be stretched out over a number of years before they are completed.

Inventories edged up

Manufacturers' inventories edged up 0.1% to \$49.6 billion in March due to the increase in raw materials inventory (+0.5%). Manufacturers' goods-in-process (-0.1%) and finished-products (-0.1%) inventories both declined slightly.

Inventories edge up in March



In order of magnitude, the major contributors to March's increase in inventories were in the electrical and electronic products (+4.6%) and the refined petroleum and coal (+6.2%) industries. The largest offsetting decreases were observed in the primary metal (-2.5%) and motor vehicle (-2.2%) industries.

The inventory-to-shipments ratio fell to 1.25, down from 1.27 in February to reach the lowest level since July 1997. This ratio has been following a downward trend from a peak of 1.34 in July 1998.

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

The March 1999 issue of the *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001-XPB, \$20/\$196) will be available shortly.

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.

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	
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	1.30
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	37,436	7.9	49,895	1.1	47,312	3.1	38,865	8.4	1.33
September 1998	37,743	0.8	50,109	0.4	47,847	1.1	38,279	-1.5	1.33
October 1998	38,637	2.4	49,981	-0.3	49,369	3.2	40,159	4.9	1.29
November 1998	38,977	0.9	50,326	0.7	49,102	-0.5	38,710	-3.6	1.29
December 1998	39,550	1.5	49,613	-1.4	48,795	-0.6	39,243	1.4	1.25
January 1999	39,208	-0.9	49,496	-0.2	48,260	-1.1	38,673	-1.5	1.26
February 1999	39,068	-0.4	49,573	0.2	49,840	3.3	40,648	5.1	1.27
March 1999	39,832	2.0	49,639	0.1	49,709	-0.3	39,701	-2.3	1.25

Manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
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	30,239	1.7	46,826	0.6	40,802	3.2	31,520	2.8
September 1998	30,269	0.1	46,950	0.3	41,136	0.8	30,602	-2.9
October 1998	30,375	0.4	46,809	-0.3	42,288	2.8	31,527	3.0
November 1998	30,486	0.4	46,846	0.1	42,066	-0.5	30,264	-4.0
December 1998	30,823	1.1	46,470	-0.8	42,240	0.4	30,997	2.4
January 1999	30,461	-1.2	46,406	-0.1	41,908	-0.8	30,129	-2.8
February 1999	30,394	-0.2	46,596	0.4	43,381	3.5	31,867	5.8
March 1999	31,033	2.1	46,704	0.2	43,509	0.3	31,161	-2.2

Divorces

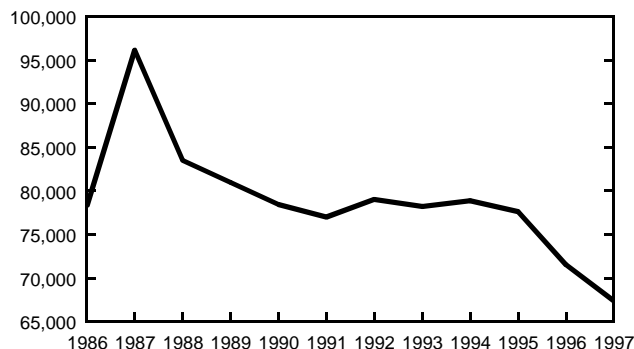
1997

The number of marriages ending in divorce decreased for the third straight year in 1997, declining in eight provinces and both territories.

A total of 67,408 couples divorced in 1997, down 5.8% from the previous year and the lowest number since 1985. Amendments to the *Divorce Act* came into effect in 1986, allowing divorce after one year of separation instead of three. Those amendments resulted in a record 96,200 divorces in 1987.

After this peak, the number of divorces fell abruptly the following year, then levelled off. In 1996 and 1997, the number of divorces followed the decline that started a few years ago, with the number in 1997 down 14.5% from the most recent high of 78,880 in 1994.

The number of divorces has been decreasing since the late 1980s



Several factors have likely contributed to the decline in divorces in recent years, among them a 17.8% drop in the number of marriages between 1989 (190,640 marriages) and 1996 (156,691 marriages). Because fewer people are getting married, the pool of married persons at risk of divorce is more restricted than it would be otherwise. In addition, many couples settle a marriage breakdown through separation agreements that need not be followed by a legal divorce unless, for example, one of the spouses decides to remarry.

According to data from the 1996 Census, about 1.6 million people reported that they were divorced, up 28% from 1991, and 700,000 reported that they were separated, a 15% increase from the 1991 Census.

Divorces up slightly in Manitoba and Prince Edward Island

The number of divorces increased slightly in two provinces in 1997. In Prince Edward Island, 243 couples obtained a divorce, up 2.5% from 1996, and in Manitoba divorces rose a marginal 0.8% to 2,625.

The largest percentage decline in divorces occurred in Newfoundland, where 822 couples divorced (-22.5%), and in British Columbia where 9,692 couples divorced (-11.1%). The decline in both provinces followed significant increases between 1995 and 1996.

The number of divorces in Ontario has also declined for three straight years, but the pace is slowing. In 1997, 23,629 couples obtained a divorce, down 5.6% from the previous year. This contrasts with a 14.7% decline in 1996. In Quebec, 17,478 couples officially ended their marriage in 1997 (-3.3%), a much slower pace than the 10.2% decline in 1996.

Divorce rate down for five straight years

Crude divorce rates are generally calculated as the number of divorces for every 100,000 total population. Nationally, the divorce rate has declined considerably for five straight years.

In 1997, there were 222.6 divorces for every 100,000 population in Canada, down from the most recent high of 270.2 in 1993. Divorce rates reached a historic peak in the late 1980s following the amendments to the *Divorce Act*.

The highest divorce rates in 1997 were in the Yukon (319.3), Alberta (252.4) and British Columbia (246.4). The lowest rates were in the Northwest Territories (117.0), Newfoundland (145.8) and Prince Edward Island (177.1)

Marriages slightly more stable

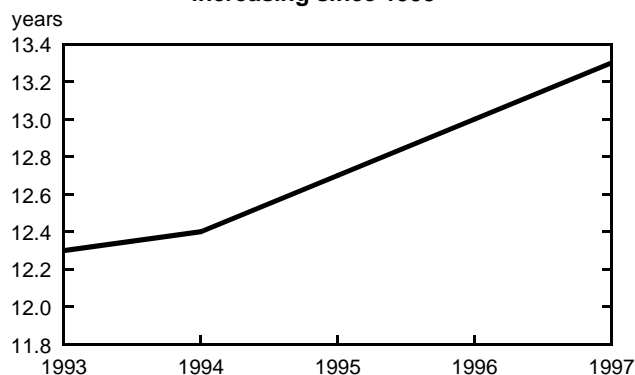
Marriage stability can be estimated using divorce rates according to years of marriage. Based on 1997 divorces rates, the percentage of marriages expected to end in divorce within 30 years of marriage declined to 34.8% nationally, compared with 36.9% based on 1996 rates.

In British Columbia, 39.5% of marriages were expected to end in divorce, based on data for 1997, compared with 45.0% based on data for the previous year. In Ontario, the proportion fell from 32.9% in 1996 to 31.0% in 1997. Quebec's total divorce rate fell from 45.7% to 44.8%.

On average, marriages ending in divorce have been lasting longer. The average duration has

increased from 12.3 years in 1993 to 13.3 years in 1997. These calculations do not take into account deaths, or unofficial separations, for which there are no data.

The average duration of marriage has been increasing since 1993



In addition, couples have been divorcing later in life. In 1997, men were on average 41.4 years old at the time of divorce, compared with 38.8 years for women. These average ages have been rising during the 1990s.

Average ages at divorce in 1997 were highest in Quebec (42.4 years for men and 40.0 for women).

They were lowest in Saskatchewan and Manitoba for men (40.4 years), and in Saskatchewan for women (37.7 years).

Custody orders for children in almost half of all divorces

In 1997, there were 39,204 divorce cases involving a custody order for dependent children, almost half of the total number of divorces granted.

Custody was granted to the wife in 61.2% of these cases, far ahead of joint custody to both husband and wife (27.6%) or custody to the husband (11.0%). It should be noted that in many cases not involving a custody order, residential arrangements are negotiated by parents outside of formal court proceedings.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 7.

The standard tables *Divorces in Canada, 1996 and 1997* (84F0213XPB, \$20) are now available. To order this product or custom tabulations, call Client Custom Services (613-951-1746), Health Statistics Division. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Claude Grenier (613-951-8388), Health Statistics Division. □

Divorces

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
	Number				
Divorces granted					
Canada	78,226	78,880	77,636	71,528	67,408
Newfoundland	930	933	982	1,060	822
Prince Edward Island	227	249	260	237	243
Nova Scotia	2,376	2,286	2,294	2,228	1,983
New Brunswick	1,606	1,570	1,456	1,450	1,373
Quebec	19,662	18,224	20,133	18,078	17,478
Ontario	28,903	30,718	29,352	25,035	23,629
Manitoba	2,586	2,746	2,677	2,603	2,625
Saskatchewan	2,239	2,354	2,320	2,216	2,198
Alberta	8,612	8,174	7,599	7,509	7,185
British Columbia	10,889	11,437	10,357	10,898	9,692
Yukon	94	97	112	115	101
Northwest Territories	102	92	94	99	79
	Number of divorces per 100,000 total population				
Crude divorce rates					
Canada	270.2	269.7	262.2	241.1	222.6
Newfoundland	159.2	160.5	170.6	189.1	145.8
Prince Edward Island	170.5	185.1	191.0	174.0	177.1
Nova Scotia	255.4	244.8	244.6	239.3	209.2
New Brunswick	212.6	207.2	191.6	192.6	180.2
Quebec	271.6	250.1	274.5	248.5	235.6
Ontario	267.2	280.9	264.4	225.5	207.1
Manitoba	230.0	243.1	235.3	229.5	229.2
Saskatchewan	221.5	232.6	228.4	217.4	214.8
Alberta	320.6	301.1	276.6	270.0	252.4
British Columbia	304.6	311.7	275.0	280.7	246.4
Yukon	308.8	326.6	371.9	360.1	319.3
Northwest Territories	160.2	142.2	142.8	146.5	117.0

Total divorce rates¹

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
	Number of divorces per 1,000 marriages				
Canada	401	405	400	369	348
Newfoundland	229	230	242	263	202
Prince Edward Island	234	257	261	240	242
Nova Scotia	340	329	328	324	382
New Brunswick	282	276	259	259	248
Quebec	465	438	500	457	448
Ontario	384	406	388	329	310
Manitoba	305	324	320	309	313
Saskatchewan	299	318	317	306	306
Alberta	446	422	390	383	365
British Columbia	467	482	432	450	395
Yukon	473	464	555	561	477
Northwest Territories	416	382	381	389	325

¹ The total divorce rate (TDR) was calculated by summing duration-specific divorce rates for the past 30 years. For example, the 1997 TDR is an accumulation of divorce rates pertaining to marriages having taken place between 1968 and 1997.

OTHER RELEASES

Crushing statistics

April 1999

Canadian oilseed processors crushed 216 027 metric tonnes of canola in April, according to Statistics Canada's monthly survey of crushing plants. Oil production totalled 90 633 tonnes while meal production amounted to 136 560 tonnes.

In the first nine months of the 1998-99 crop year, the canola crush volume was 2 461 288 tonnes, a 0.7% decrease from the August-April 1997-98 crush quantity of 2 478 248 tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5687

The April 1999 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149) will be released in early July.

For more information, or to enquire about the concept, methods, and data quality of this release contact Karen Gray (204-983-2856; graykar@statcan.ca) or Les Macartney (613-951-8714; macales@statcan.ca), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division. ■

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

April 1999

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in April from March at 112.1 (1992=100). The index increased 0.9% in April compared with April 1998.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 1992=100 time base are calculated for

the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 956, 958 and 9922-9927.

The second quarter 1999 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in September.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality for this release, contact Louise Chagné (613-951-3350; infounit@statcan.ca; fax: 613 951-1539) Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

Selected financial indexes




April 1999

April figures are now available for selected financial indexes including conventional mortgage rates, prime business lending rates, provincial bond yield averages and exchange rates on a 1992=100 time base.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9928.

These indexes will appear in the second quarter 1999 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79), available in September.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality for this release, contact Louise Chagné (613-951-3350; infounit@statcan.ca; fax: 613 951-1539) Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

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MAJOR RELEASES	
• Urban transit, 1995 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 4.5 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995 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.	4
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