



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, July 19, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, May 1999** 2
Led by increases in the food, motor vehicles and electrical and electronic products industries, manufacturers' shipments grew 1.0% to \$39.9 billion in May.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing May 1999

Led by increases in the food, motor vehicles and electrical and electronic products industries, manufacturers' shipments grew 1.0% to \$39.9 billion in May.

While this increase was only the second gain since the beginning of the year, the trend of manufacturers' shipments remained positive. However, the upward trend is not as strong as that observed in the second half of 1998. Shipments were 8.1% higher in May 1999 than a year earlier. Unfilled orders and inventories were also up in May.

The Labour Force Survey reported that employment in the manufacturing sector increased in June, raising total gains in this industry since the beginning of the year to 108,000 (+5.1%). Strength over the last year has been most notable in motor vehicle and parts manufacturing as well as computer and electronic parts.

Shipments up in May

Manufacturers' shipments rose in 12 of the 22 major groups, accounting for 73.3% of the total value of shipments.

The main contributors to this increase were the food (+3.2%), motor vehicles (+1.9%) and electrical and electronic products (+3.6%) industries. Together, they accounted for 85.9% of the increase.

The food industry's gain, which was preceded by a 1.8% decline in April, was chiefly due to a higher demand for seafood. In the motor vehicle industry, following a decrease in April (-3.4%), shipments rose in May, returning to a level comparable to that observed in early 1999. The upswing in the electrical and electronic products industry was partially attributable to shipment delays caused by parts supply problems in April.

These gains were partly offset by decreases in the aircraft and parts industry (-3.5%) and the machinery industry (-2.7%).

Manufacturers' shipments rose in seven of the 10 provinces and declined in all territories.

Note to readers

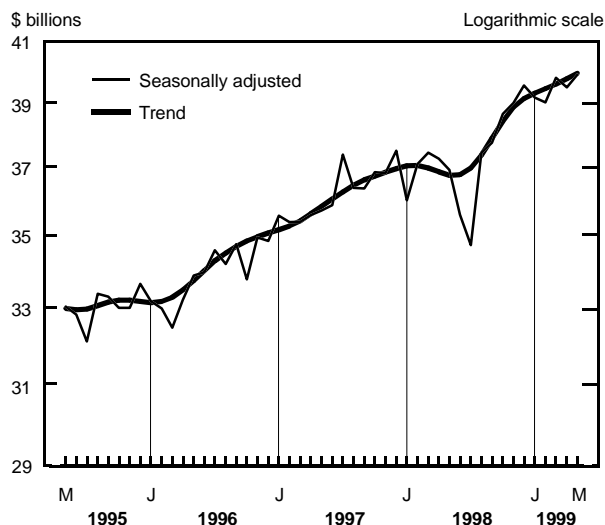
This release contains separate non-seasonally adjusted data on shipments from Nunavut.

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 because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to manufacturers in other countries.

Shipments higher in May



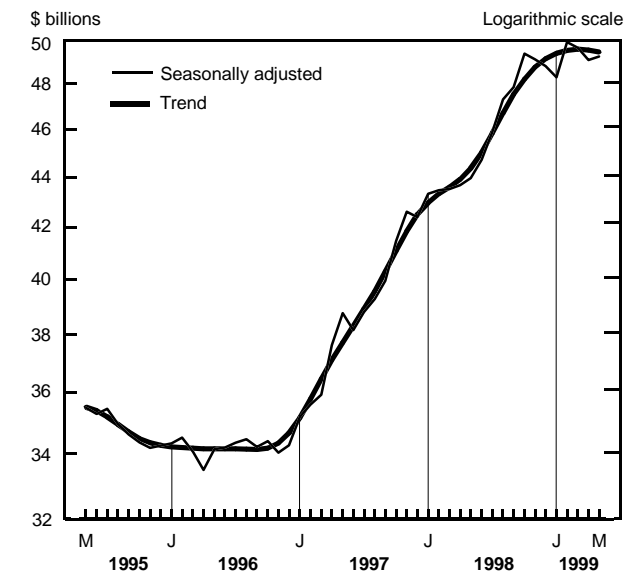
Shipments by province

	April 1999	May 1999	April to May 1999
seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change
Newfoundland	158	168	6.3
Prince Edward Island	84	80	-4.8
Nova Scotia	590	590	-0.1
New Brunswick	679	716	5.4
Quebec	9,023	9,046	0.3
Ontario	21,853	21,996	0.7
Manitoba	873	910	4.2
Saskatchewan	493	484	-1.9
Alberta	2,779	2,905	4.5
British Columbia	2,952	3,001	1.7
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	3	3	-3.4

Unfilled orders rebound slightly

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders grew 0.3% to \$49.2 billion in May. This increase partly counterbalanced the declines of the last two months, levelling out the trend observed since the end of 1998.

Trend of unfilled orders slows down in May



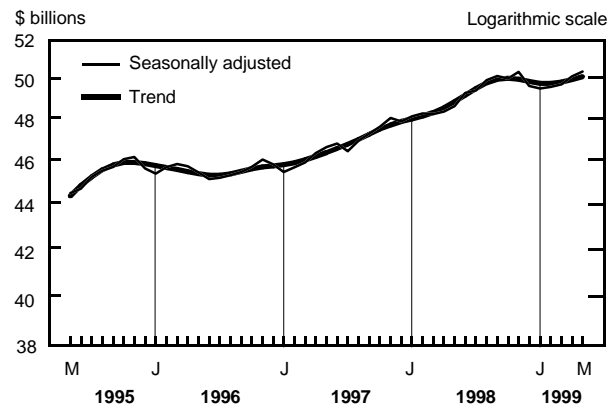
The increase in unfilled orders was led by the transportation equipment industry (+1.0%). The main

contributor offsetting this gain was the electrical and electronic products industry (-2.8%).

Manufacturers' inventories edge up

Manufacturers' inventories edged up 0.5% to \$50.3 billion in May. This is the fourth consecutive increase, continuing an upward trend that began in February after a decline in the preceding late autumn and early winter.

Inventories increase in May



In order of magnitude, the major contributors to the May increase in inventories were the aircraft and parts (+3.1%), electrical and electronic products (+1.9%) and machinery (+1.6%) industries.

Offsetting declines were recorded in the paper and allied products industry (-1.2%) and the wood industry (-1.1%).

The inventories-to-shipments ratio was 1.26 in May, down from 1.27 in April. The ratio continued its downward trend, remaining at historically low levels since early 1999.

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

The next release will appear on August 17.

The May 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	
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	39,161	-1.0	49,469	-0.3	48,294	-1.0	38,660	-1.5	1.26
February 1999	38,999	-0.4	49,553	0.2	49,898	3.3	40,602	5.0	1.27
March 1999	39,795	2.0	49,687	0.3	49,627	-0.5	39,525	-2.7	1.25
April 1999	39,487	-0.8	50,087	0.8	49,082	-1.1	38,942	-1.5	1.27
May 1999	39,899	1.0	50,337	0.5	49,231	0.3	40,047	2.8	1.26

Manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
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	30,418	-1.3	46,379	-0.2	41,892	-0.8	30,070	-3.0
February 1999	30,333	-0.3	46,557	0.4	43,367	3.5	31,808	5.8
March 1999	31,080	2.5	46,740	0.4	43,382	0.0	31,094	-2.2
April 1999	30,973	-0.3	47,107	0.8	43,160	-0.5	30,751	-1.1
May 1999	31,268	1.0	47,358	0.5	43,527	0.8	31,634	2.9

OTHER RELEASES

Residential telephone service

May 1999

A microdata file from the May Residential Telephone Service Survey is now available. This file details telephone service penetration rates in Canada's provinces.

For more information about the current survey results and related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or 1 888 297-7355; fax 613-951-3012; ssd@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division. ■

Work absence rates

1987 to 1998

Work absence rates, 1987 to 1998, which looks at absences from work for personal reasons (illness or disability) and personal or family responsibilities (excluding maternity leave), is now available.

This report is based on data from the Labour Force Survey using the recently implemented 1991 Standard

Occupational Classification system, the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), and the redefined public/private sectors.

Absence rates vary considerably among groups of workers. Factors include family circumstances, age, industry, occupation, work schedule and leave entitlements. *Work absence rates, 1987 to 1998* presents highlights and a series of tables on work absence rates for men and women by age, education, and presence of children; by detailed industry and occupation groups; by public versus private sector; by union coverage, workplace size, job tenure and job permanency; and by province, region and census metropolitan area.

Work absence rates, 1987 to 1998 (71-535-MPB, no. 10, \$50) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Ernest B. Akyeampong (613-951-4624; fax: 613-951-4179; akyeern@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Refined petroleum products, March 1999
Catalogue number 45-004-XPB
(Canada: \$21/\$206; outside Canada: US\$21/US\$206).

Electric power generation, transmission and distribution, 1997
Catalogue number 57-202-XPB
(Canada: \$30; outside Canada: US\$30).

New motor vehicle sales, May 1999
Catalogue number 63-007-XIB
(Canada: \$13/\$124).

Work absence rates, 1987 to 1998
Catalogue number 71-535-MPB
(Canada: \$50; outside Canada: US\$50).

All prices exclude sales tax.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

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Catalogue 11-001E (PDF) 11-001E (11-001E) 11-001E (11-001E)	
	
Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 3, 1997	
For release at 8:30 a.m.	
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 40 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
OTHER RELEASES	
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