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Statistics Canada

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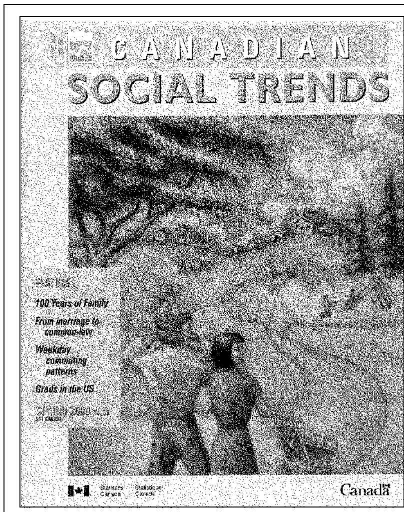
MAJOR RELEASES

(continued on following page)



Canadian social trends

Spring 2000

The Spring 2000 issue of *Canadian social trends* features the following articles: "One hundred years of families," "The changing face of conjugal relationships," "Traffic report: Weekday commuting patterns," and "Stateward bound," an article on the movement of skilled workers to the United States.

Each quarter, *Canadian social trends* integrates data from many sources to examine emerging social trends and issues. It also features the latest social indicators, as well as information about Statistics Canada's products and services.

The Spring 2000 issue of *Canadian social trends* (11-008-XPE, $11/$36; 11-008-XIE, $8/$27) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact Susan Crompton (613-951-2556; *cstsc@statcan.ca*), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.

OTHER RELEASES

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

MAJOR RELEASES

Canadian social trends: The changing face of conjugal relationships
1995

Common-law unions break up more often than marriages, but many people keep returning to them, according to a new study of conjugal relationships. While marriage still accounts for the majority of relationships, its traditional dominance has given way to the growing popularity of common-law unions.

According to data from the 1995 General Social Survey, women whose first conjugal union was a common-law relationship were almost twice as likely to separate as women who married first.

The data show that, among women aged 30 to 39, almost two-thirds (63%) of those whose first relationship was common-law had separated by 1995, compared with only one-third (33%) of women who had married first.

Women in their 40s showed a similar pattern. About 61% of women who started in a common-law relationship had separated by 1995, compared with 36% who married first.

Proportion of women separating, by conjugal arrangement

	Age in 1995			
	60-69	50-59	40-49	30-39
	%			
Proportion of women separating if:				
Married first	25	30	36	33
Common-law first (including those separated after marrying their common-law partner)	- -	77	61	63

- - *amount too small to be expressed.*

Second relationship usually common-law

Women whose first marriage had dissolved were very likely to form another union. However, they were then more likely to choose common-law over remarriage. This was especially true of women in their 30s and 40s, who were twice as likely to live common-law as to remarry.

Women who had started their conjugal life in a common-law relationship were just as likely to form new relationships if their relationship ended as those who had married first. But they were substantially more likely to prefer common-law for their second relationship than were women who had married first.

The analysis shows that, while married-first women in their 30s were twice as likely to choose common-law as marriage for their second union, women whose first relationship was common-law were an estimated six times more likely to do so in their second union.

The instability of common-law arrangements and the rising rate of dissolution of all conjugal unions suggest that more people may spend more time living alone or, conversely, may be involved in more short-term relationships.

The proportion of women who had experienced at least two conjugal unions (marital or common-law) nearly tripled from the older to the younger generations, from 14% of those in their 60s to 39% of those in their 30s.

Note to readers

This release is based on an article on marriage and common-law unions, published in the Spring 2000 issue of Canadian social trends*, available today.*

The data for this study came from the 1995 General Social Survey, which collected information on all marital and common-law unions, on separation, divorce and the death of a partner, plus a broad range of background characteristics. This study uses a sample of 4,656 female respondents aged 20 to 69 years living in private households in the 10 provinces.

Young people more inclined to live common-law with their first partner

In 1995, the proportion of women who started their first conjugal union in a marriage varied widely with age. About 95% of women in their 60s had married first, compared with 56% of women in their 30s and 35% of those in their 20s.

Clearly, young people are far more inclined to opt for common-law in their first conjugal relationship. In 1995, only 1% of women aged 60 to 69 lived common-law in their first union. In contrast, 38% of women aged 30 to 39 chose common-law first, while 52% of those aged 20 to 29 chose common-law.

At the same time, the likelihood of the first relationship ending in divorce or separation has increased significantly. While 25% of women aged 60 to 69 had experienced a break-up at some point in their lives in 1995, over 40% of those in their 30s and 40s had already gone through one. This suggests that breakdowns of first unions are happening earlier in life.

The article on conjugal relationships is now available in spring 2000 issue of *Canadian social trends* (11-008-XPE, $11/$36; 11-008-XIE, $8/$27). See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Pierre Turcotte (613-951-2554), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.

Conjugal arrangements experienced by women, by age

	Age in 1995				
	60-69	50-59	40-49	30-39	20-29
	%				
Proportion of all women experiencing:					
At least one union	96	97	96	94	87
At least one marriage	96	95	92	84	66
First union starts with marriage	95	91	78	56	35
At least one common-law union	8	22	35	49	59
First union starts with common law	1	6	18	38	52
At least one separation	25	32	40	43	- -
At least two unions	14	27	34	39	- -
At least two separations	8	13	16	- -	- -

- - *amount too small to be be expressed.*

■

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

January 2000

Manufacturers' shipments climbed 1.1% to $43.7 billion, led by the aircraft and parts, wood, and refined petroleum and coal industries.

January's result is the third consecutive strong increase by manufacturers, following a pause in October. After edging downwards in the first two months of 1999, shipments generally rose at a healthy pace through the rest of the year, maintaining the strong upward trend that began in August 1998.

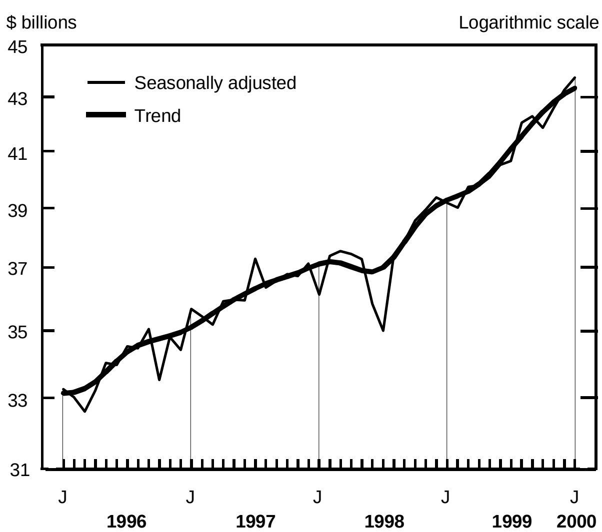
Unfilled orders decreased in January, while inventories increased.

The January Business Conditions Survey reported that nearly 90% of manufacturers planned to increase or maintain production in the first quarter of 2000. The Labour Force Survey reported that employment in the manufacturing sector dropped slightly in February from January, but is 4.6% higher than in February 1999.

Shipments continue to surge

Manufacturers' shipments increased in 14 of the 22 major groups in January, representing 67.9% of the total value of shipments.

Manufacturers' shipments rise strongly for third consecutive month



The largest contributors to the increase in shipments were the aircraft and parts (+22.5%), wood (+3.8%) and refined petroleum and coal products (+4.5%) industries.

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 interpret new orders as orders that will lead to future demand. This is inappropriate, because the new orders variable includes orders that have already been shipped. 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 become Canadian factory shipments, because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to manufacturers in other countries.

The aircraft and parts industry rallied in January after a slow December. The demand for wood remained strong, driven by the North American construction boom and recovering Asian markets. More than half of the increase in the refined petroleum and coal industry was due to price rises of 3.2%, as measured in the Industrial Product Price Index.

The largest declines were observed in the chemicals (-3.7%) and machinery (-4.4%) industries, which had both recorded robust gains in December.

Manufacturers' shipments rose in six provinces.

Shipments by province and territory

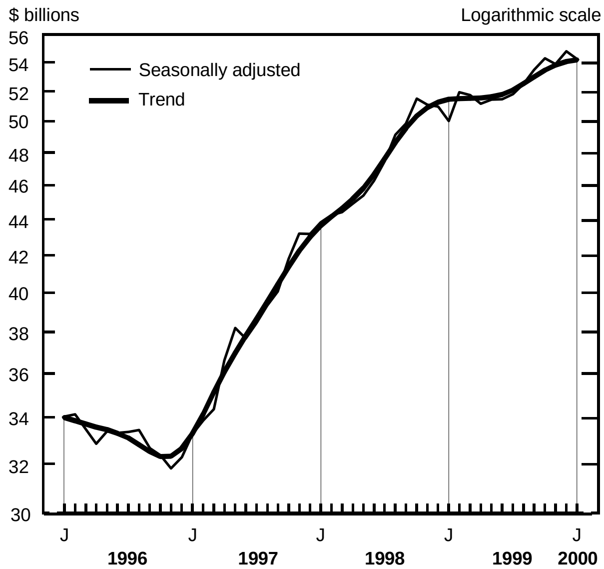
	Dec. 1999	Jan. 2000	Dec. 1999 to Jan. 2000
	seasonally adjusted		
	$ millions		% change
Newfoundland	176	168	-4.4
Prince Edward Island	85	80	-5.4
Nova Scotia	710	637	-10.2
New Brunswick	811	816	0.6
Quebec	10,110	10,514	4.0
Ontario	23,416	23,491	0.3
Manitoba	852	879	3.1
Saskatchewan	543	556	2.4
Alberta	3,230	3,223	-0.2
British Columbia	3,311	3,359	1.5
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	4	4	-2.8

Orders decline

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders decreased 1.0% to $54.2 billion in January, after increasing in December and slipping in November. Unfilled orders have been wavering around $54 billion for four months; their growth was much slower in 1999 than the frenzied pace of 1998 and 1997.

January's decline was mainly attributable to the setback in the transportation equipment industry (-2.2%).

Unfilled orders decline in January

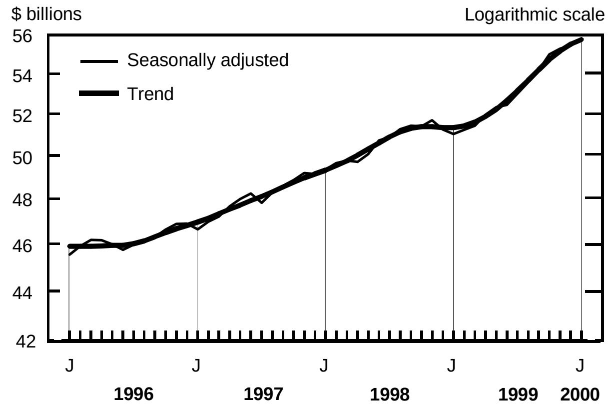


Manufacturers' inventories continue to rise

Manufacturers' inventories rose 0.7% to $55.8 billion. January's result is the twelfth consecutive advance in inventories.

The main contributors to the increase were the petroleum and coal (+10.4%), machinery (+2.6%) and chemicals (+1.7%) industries. Price increases played an important role in the petroleum and coal industry. Manufacturers in the machinery and chemicals industries replenished inventories reduced by strong shipments in December.

Manufacturers continue to accumulate inventories



The main offsetting decrease in inventories was in the aircraft and parts industry (-1.9%), where shipments rose sharply in January.

The inventory to shipments ratio remained unchanged in January at 1.28. This ratio has been edging downward since the beginning of 1999, after dropping sharply in the second half of 1998.

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

The January 2000 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. □

Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventories-shipments ratio
	seasonally adjusted								
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	
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	40,639	0.3	52,988	1.1	51,825	0.7	41,003	1.2	1.30
August 1999	42,028	3.4	53,574	1.1	52,502	1.3	42,705	4.2	1.27
September 1999	42,266	0.6	54,189	1.1	53,468	1.8	43,233	1.2	1.28
October 1999	41,839	-1.0	54,998	1.5	54,288	1.5	42,658	-1.3	1.31
November 1999	42,581	1.8	55,291	0.5	53,877	-0.8	42,170	-1.1	1.30
December 1999	43,247	1.6	55,439	0.3	54,775	1.7	44,145	4.7	1.28
January 2000	43,727	1.1	55,834	0.7	54,253	-1.0	43,204	-2.1	1.28

Manufacturing industries except motor vehicles, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	seasonally adjusted							
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change
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	31,872	0.9	49,648	0.3	44,948	-0.3	31,749	-1.2
July 1999	32,227	1.1	50,006	0.7	45,344	0.9	32,623	2.8
August 1999	32,693	1.4	50,642	1.3	45,925	1.3	33,274	2.0
September 1999	33,122	1.3	51,236	1.2	46,175	0.5	33,371	0.3
October 1999	33,085	-0.1	51,754	1.0	46,922	1.6	33,832	1.4
November 1999	33,839	2.3	52,172	0.8	47,109	0.4	34,026	0.6
December 1999	34,221	1.1	52,362	0.4	48,450	2.8	35,562	4.5
January 2000	34,709	1.4	52,777	0.8	48,581	0.3	34,840	-2.0

■

OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms

Week ending March 11, 2000 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending March 11, totalled 333 146 tonnes, down 1.5% from the week earlier (338 189 tonnes) and up 14.1% from the year earlier (291 866 tonnes). The cumulative total at the end of the week was 3 317 417 tonnes, a 9.4% increase compared with 3 032 837 tonnes for the same period in 1999.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Huguette Montcalm (613-951-9827; *monthug@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Informatics Professional Services Price Index

1998

Price indexes at a national level for informatics professional services in 1998 are now available (1996=100). The indexes measure changes in the total price of informatics professional services, including changes in cost of labour and realized net multiplier components. These indexes may be revised.

Informatics professional services include hardware and software consultancy services, computer facilities management, and system maintenance services.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1981.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Jennifer Winters (613-951-3373; fax: 613-951-1539; *wintjen@statcan.ca*), Goods and Services Section, Prices Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Canadian social trends, Spring 2000
Catalogue number 11-008-XIE
(Canada: $8/$27).

Canadian social trends, Spring 2000
Catalogue number 11-008-XPE
(Canada: $11/$36; outside Canada: US$11/US$36).

Industry price indexes, January 2000
Catalogue number 62-011-XPB
(Canada: $22/$217; outside Canada: US$22/US$217).

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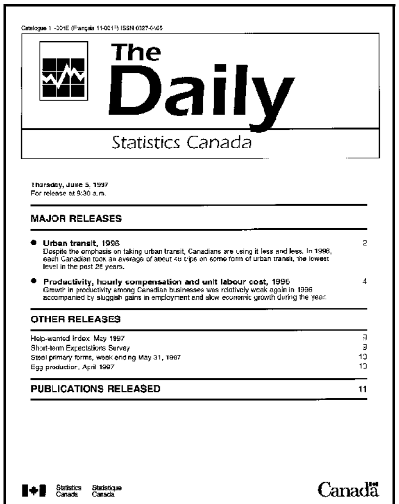
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit**, 1996 — 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 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 relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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