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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing,** March 2000 2
  Manufacturers' shipments rebounded strongly in March, increasing 3.8% to $44.9 billion, following February's decline. The increase was widespread, touching nearly all industries, but was most pronounced in the automotive, electrical and electronic products, and refined petroleum and coal industries.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

March 2000

Manufacturers' shipments rebounded strongly in March, increasing 3.8% to $44.9 billion, following February's decline. The increase was widespread, touching nearly all industries, but was most pronounced in the automotive, electrical and electronic products, and refined petroleum and coal industries.

March's increase is the fourth strong increase in five months and revitalizes the strong upward trend that began in August 1998. Manufacturers' shipments have increased 3.5% since the beginning of the year and were 13.0% higher than in March 1999.

Unfilled orders edged downwards in March while inventories increased for the fourteenth month in a row.

The April Business Conditions Survey reported that four out of five manufacturers expected their production would be the same or higher in the upcoming quarter. The Labour Force Survey reported a small increase in employment in the manufacturing sector for April.

Gains widespread following February's decline

Manufacturers' shipments increased in 21 of the 22 major groups in March, representing 99.5% of the total value of shipments. Excluding the automotive sector, manufacturers' shipments increased 3.1%.

The largest contributors to the increase in shipments in March were the motor vehicle (+7.3%), electrical and electronic products (+6.5%), refined petroleum and coal (+7.7%) and motor vehicle parts (+6.3%) industries.

Shipments in the motor vehicle and motor vehicle and parts industries rebounded in March after a pause in February. The increase in the electrical and electronic industry was concentrated in the computer industry. The gain in the refined petroleum and coal industry was partially due to a 3.0% increase in prices as reported by the Industrial Product Price Index.

Manufacturers' shipments increased in all provinces and territories in March, except Newfoundland.

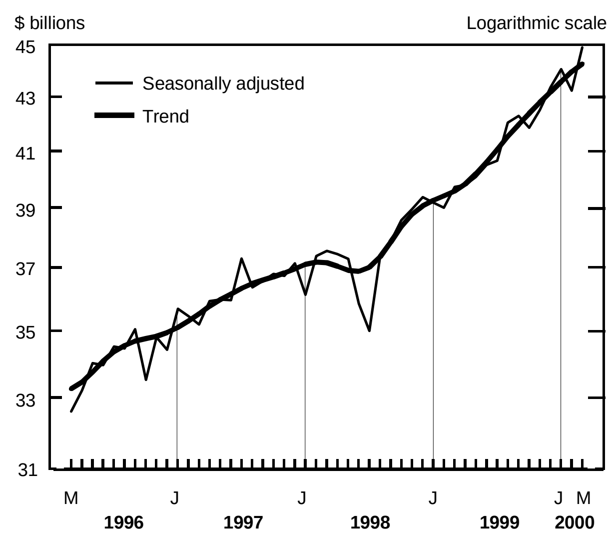
Note to readers

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders, which 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.

Manufacturers' shipments resume their upward trend in March



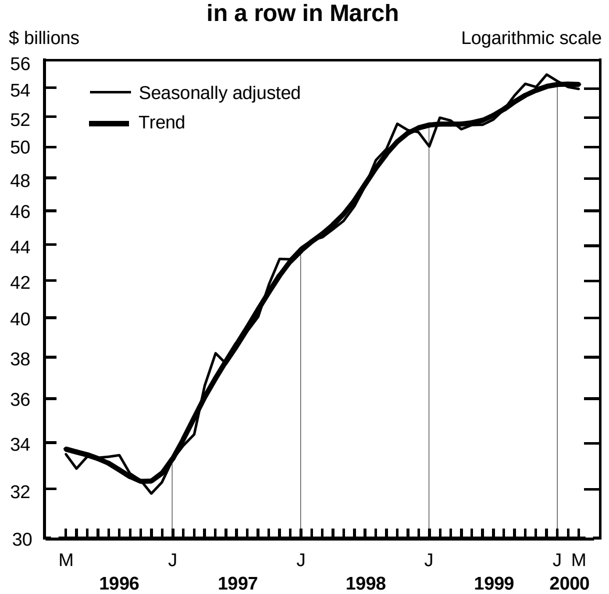
Shipments by province and territory

	Feb. 2000	Mar. 2000	Feb. to Mar. 2000
	seasonnally adjusted		
	$ millions		% change
Newfoundland	168	160	-4.6
Prince Edward Island	81	86	6.0
Nova Scotia	717	722	0.6
New Brunswick	875	875	0.1
Quebec	10,242	10,513	2.6
Ontario	23,008	24,105	4.8
Manitoba	886	903	1.9
Saskatchewan	574	584	1.7
Alberta	3,315	3,464	4.5
British Columbia	3,354	3,472	3.5
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	4	4	3.3

Unfilled orders declined slightly

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders decreased 0.3%, to $53.9 billion in March after increasing in December and slipping in both January and February. Manufacturers' unfilled orders have been hovering in the $54 billion range for the past six months.

Unfilled orders decline for the third month in a row in March



March's decline was mainly attributable to the decline in the transportation equipment industry (-0.4%).

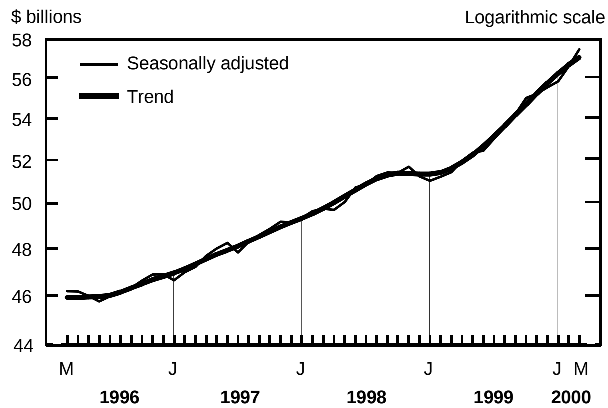
The largest offsetting increase occurred in the primary metals industry (+6.4%).

Inventories continued to rise

Inventories rose 1.5% in March, to $57.5 billion. March's result was the fourteenth consecutive increase.

The main contributors to the March increase were the aircraft and parts (+5.1%), food (+3.5%) and electrical and electronic products (+1.5%) industries.

Manufacturers continue to accumulate inventories



The main offsetting decrease in inventories was registered in the refined petroleum coal industry (-3.5%) and was concentrated in the raw materials component as some manufacturers depleted their reserves of crude petroleum.

The inventory-to-shipments ratio decreased in March to 1.28 returning to a level more consistent with the trend that has been firmly entrenched at 1.29 now for nine months.

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

The March 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, or data quality of this release, contact Craig Kuntz (613-951-7092; *kuncrai@statcan.ca*), 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	
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	42,491	1.6	55,200	0.4	54,071	-0.4	42,274	-0.9	1.30
December 1999	43,359	2.0	55,520	0.6	54,938	1.6	44,227	4.6	1.28
January 2000	44,037	1.6	55,828	0.6	54,473	-0.8	43,572	-1.5	1.27
February 2000	43,223	-1.8	56,590	1.4	54,057	-0.8	42,808	-1.8	1.31
March 2000	44,886	3.8	57,460	1.5	53,916	-0.3	44,745	4.5	1.28

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 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	33,827	2.2	52,079	0.6	47,207	0.6	34,113	0.8
December 1999	34,391	1.7	52,402	0.6	48,602	3.0	35,786	4.9
January 2000	35,097	2.1	52,730	0.6	48,847	0.5	35,342	-1.2
February 2000	34,800	-0.8	53,464	1.4	49,138	0.6	35,090	-0.7
March 2000	35,877	3.1	54,279	1.5	49,694	1.1	36,434	3.8

■

OTHER RELEASES

Apartment Building Construction Price Index

First quarter 2000

The composite price index for apartment building construction increased 1.1% to 115.6 (1992=100) in the first quarter of 2000 over the previous quarter, and rose by 2.7% compared with the first quarter of 1999.

Toronto registered the highest quarterly change (+1.9%), followed by Ottawa (+1.5%), Halifax and Montreal (+1.2%), Calgary (+1.0%), Edmonton (+0.9%) and Vancouver (+0.8%).

Toronto also had the highest year-over-year change (+4.4%) compared with the first quarter of 1999. Of the other urban areas surveyed, Montreal registered a 4.3% annual increase, followed by Ottawa (+3.7%), Calgary (+3.4%), Edmonton (+2.9%) and Halifax (+2.7%). Vancouver registered the lowest year-over-year change (+1.5%).

Note: The Apartment Building Construction Price Index provides an indication of new construction cost changes in seven major urban areas across Canada (Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver). Besides each of the urban areas' indexes and the composite index, there are further breakdowns of cost changes by trade groups within the building (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical). These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade-group contractors who report on the categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profits) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Apartment Building Construction Price Index
(1992 = 100)

	First quarter 2000	First quarter 1999 to first quarter 2000	Fourth quarter 1999 to first quarter 2000
		% change	
Composite	**115.6**	**2.7**	**1.1**
Halifax	110.0	2.7	1.2
Montreal	115.3	4.3	1.2
Ottawa	115.3	3.7	1.5
Toronto	118.5	4.4	1.9
Calgary	117.3	3.4	1.0
Edmonton	116.1	2.9	0.9
Vancouver	116.1	1.5	0.8

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9932.

The first quarter 2000 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, $24/$79) will be available in June. See *How to order publications*.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Denise Potvin (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; *potvden@statcan.ca*), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard

March 2000

Oriented strandboard production in March totalled 676 252 cubic metres, up 5.1% from 643 331 cubic metres in March 1999. Particleboard production reached 207 545 cubic metres, an increase of 5.8% from 196 223 cubic metres in March 1999. Fibreboard production totalled 88 091 cubic metres, up 6.2% from 82 912 cubic metres in March 1999.

For January to March 2000, year-to-date oriented strandboard production totalled 1 968 542 cubic metres, a 3.3% increase from 1 905 860 cubic metres for the same period in 1999. Particleboard production reached 592 428 cubic metres, up 2.7% from 577 017 cubic metres compared with the same period in 1999. Year-to-date fibreboard production reached 278 838 cubic metres, up 25.7% from 221 782 cubic metres during the same period in 1999.

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

The March 2000 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, or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; *simales@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Education at a glance

2000

The report, *Education at a glance: OECD indicators, 2000 edition*, published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), is now available. It presents an updated range of internationally comparable OECD education indicators.

The 30 indicators in this volume represent the consensus of professional thinking on how to measure the current state of education internationally. The thematic organization of the volume and the background information accompanying the tables and charts make this publication a valuable resource for anyone interested in analyzing education systems across countries.

The education indicators for Canada were calculated from data provided by Statistics Canada as part of its involvement with the Canadian Education Statistics Council, which includes the provincial and territorial deputy ministers of education, through the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada.

More information on this report is available at *http://oecd.org/news_and_events*, and the underlying data at *www.oecd.org/els/stats/els_stat.htm*.

For more information, contact Jim Seidle (613-951-1500; *jim.seidle@statcan.ca*), Centre for Education Statistics. ■

International trade in environmental goods and services: a Canada-U.S. comparison

The paper, *International trade in environmental goods and services: a Canada-U.S. comparison*, is now available. It analyzes Canada's trade in environmental goods and services and compares it with the trade profile of the world's largest environmental market, the United States. Often identified as an emerging sector, the environment industry is evolving into a complex industry that offers a wide range of technologies and services to protect and improve the environment.

The print version of the document, now available, includes new tables on Canadian international trade data. The report (16F0009XIE) will soon be available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca).

For more information, to obtain a copy of the report, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Rowena Orok (613-951-0344; fax: 613-951-0634), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard,
March 2000
Catalogue number 36-003-XIB ($5/$47).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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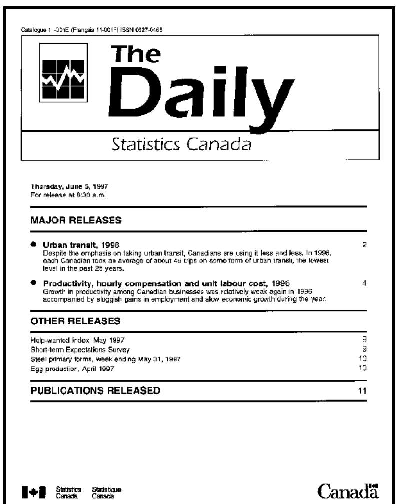

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Statistics Canada

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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.

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Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, vradtom@statcan.ca)
Head of Official Release: John Flanders (613-951-8292), flanjoh@statcan.ca