



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 15, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, April 2000** 2  
 Manufacturers' shipments fell 2.8% in April to \$43.5 billion, led by declines in the motor vehicle and refined petroleum and coal industries.
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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

April 2000

Manufacturers' shipments fell 2.8% in April to \$43.5 billion led by declines in the motor vehicle and refined petroleum and coal industries.

April's decrease follows a strong showing by virtually all industries in March; it is the second large decline this year. The volatility of the last three months has curbed the strong upward trend that began in August 1998. Manufacturers' shipments have increased 0.3% since the beginning of 2000, and were 9.3% higher than in April 1999.

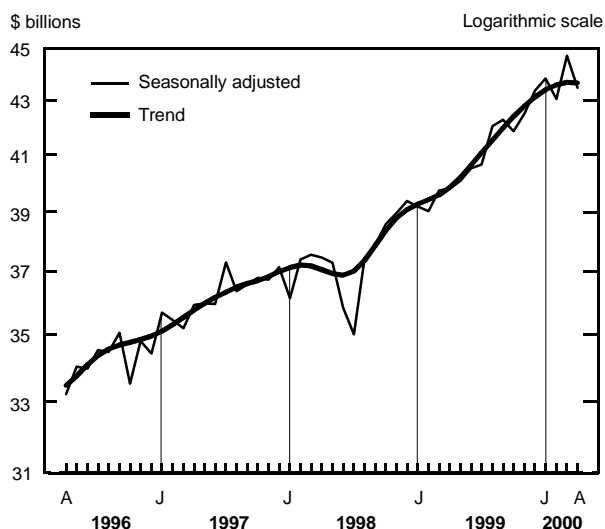
Unfilled orders continued to decline in April. Inventories grew for the fifteenth month in a row.

#### Shipments stumbled following a strong March

Manufacturers' shipments decreased in 15 of the 22 major groups in April, representing 72.2% of the total value of shipments. Excluding the automotive sector, manufacturers' shipments decreased 2.0% from March.

The largest contributors to the decrease in the month's shipments were the motor vehicle (-6.8%) and refined petroleum and coal (-12.7%) industries.

Manufacturers' shipments stumbled in April



#### 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, because 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 in the motor vehicle industry fell back, as manufacturers cut back on overtime. The drop in the refined petroleum and coal industry was mainly due to a 5.8% decrease in prices following an agreement in April by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to ease cutbacks in production. Together these two industries accounted for more than 60% of the total decline in April.

More moderate decreases were observed in the wood (-6.4%), chemicals (-4.2%), and motor vehicle and parts (-3.8%) industries.

The largest increase occurred in electrical and electronic products (+3.8%). This was concentrated in the telecommunications and computer and peripheral equipment industries.

#### Shipments by province and territory

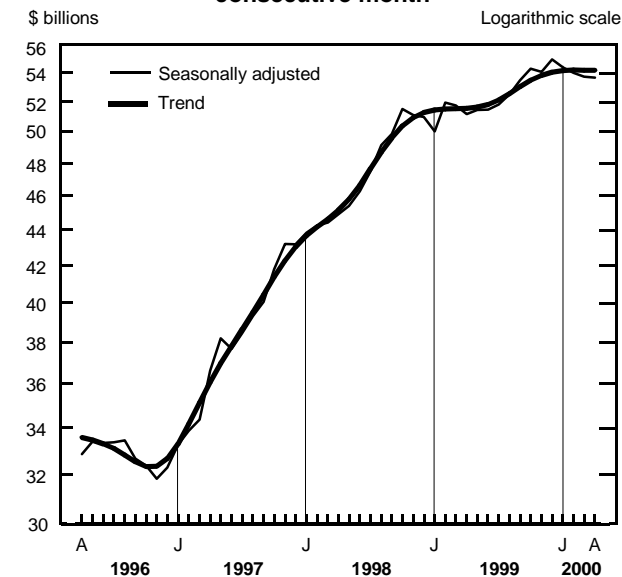
	March 2000	April 2000	March to April 2000
seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change
Newfoundland	159	167	5.4
Prince Edward Island	87	79	-9.1
Nova Scotia	721	677	-6.2
New Brunswick	875	898	2.6
Quebec	10,469	10,466	-0.0
Ontario	23,975	23,188	-3.3
Manitoba	890	903	1.5
Saskatchewan	600	577	-3.8
Alberta	3,458	3,206	-7.3
British Columbia	3,474	3,309	-4.7
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	4	4	-2.4

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

### Unfilled orders continued to edge down

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders decreased 0.1% to \$53.7 billion in April. Manufacturers' unfilled orders peaked in December, just shy of \$55 billion, and have declined in each of the subsequent four months.

**Unfilled orders declined for the fourth consecutive month**



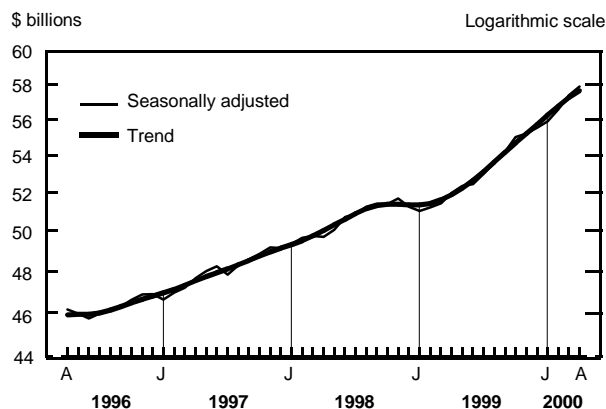
The largest drop at the major group level was in the machinery (-1.7%) industry.

### Manufacturers' inventories continued to rise

Manufacturers' inventories rose 0.9% in April to \$57.9 billion, the fifteenth consecutive monthly advance.

In order of magnitude, the major contributors to April's increase were the electrical and electronic products (+2.4%), railway rolling stock (+8.0%), and wood (+2.6%) industries.

### Manufacturers continued to accumulate inventories



The greatest decrease in inventories was in the aircraft and parts industry (-1.4%).

The inventory-to-shipments ratio jumped to 1.33 in April from 1.28 in March. The ratio in April was the highest since November 1998.

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

The April 2000 issue of the *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001-XPB, \$20/\$196) will be available soon. 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](mailto: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	
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	43,834	1.1	55,876	0.6	54,393	-1.0	43,288	-2.1	1.27
February 2000	43,054	-1.8	56,580	1.3	53,996	-0.7	42,658	-1.5	1.31
March 2000	44,711	3.8	57,396	1.4	53,728	-0.5	44,443	4.2	1.28
April 2000	43,476	-2.8	57,903	0.9	53,659	-0.1	43,407	-2.3	1.33

## Manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
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	34,985	1.7	52,776	0.7	48,735	0.3	35,118	-1.9
February 2000	34,650	-1.0	53,454	1.3	48,987	0.5	34,902	-0.6
March 2000	35,859	3.5	54,212	1.4	49,517	1.1	36,389	4.3
April 2000	35,143	-2.0	54,736	1.0	49,115	-0.8	34,741	-4.5

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Per-capita food consumption

1999

Consumers increased their consumption of poultry meat, cheese, wheat flour and rice, low-fat milk and soft drinks during the 1990s, according to new data on the amount of food available for consumption.

At the same time, they drank less high-fat milk, and moved away from butter and eggs, although it would appear that the shift from butter and eggs has moderated during the past couple of years.

In 1999, each Canadian consumed an average of 33.2 kilograms of poultry, up significantly from 28.1 kg in 1990. This growth was stimulated in part by a wide variety of convenient fresh and processed chicken products targeted at time-conscious consumers.

Canadians drank less milk during the 1990s. In 1999, each person consumed an average of 87.5 litres of milk, down from 95.4 litres a decade earlier. Several factors may have been behind this decline. They include strong competition from other beverages, such as soft drinks, juices, bottled water and soy-based products; declining numbers of children; an aging population; and an increasingly diverse ethnic population that drinks little or no milk.

Lower-fat varieties such as skim and 1% milk continued to increase their market share. In 1999, they accounted for just over 28% of all milk consumed, compared with 12.8% at the start of the decade.

However, consumers have not abandoned higher-fat products entirely. Cheese consumption closed the decade at 11.9 kg per person, up from 11.0 kg in 1990. Cream also enjoyed a surge in popularity, as consumption in 1999 reached 6.3 litres per person, up from 5.2 litres a decade ago.

On average, each consumer drank almost 117 litres of soft drinks in 1999, up significantly from 1990, when consumption hovered at less than 100 litres per person.

By the end of the 1990s, each Canadian was eating just over 23% more cereal products than at the beginning of the decade. The increasing popularity of pasta, specialty bread products (such as pita, tortilla shells, bagels and croissants) and cereal-based snacks has been an important factor in this growth.

Consumers have also increasingly turned to such items as rice cakes and rice noodles, and they are using

rice as a substitute for potatoes. In 1999, each person ate almost 8.0 kg of rice, more than 60% more than the 4.9 kg at the beginning of the decade.

After dropping to historically low levels during the 1990s, the consumption of eggs and butter has levelled off in recent years. Egg consumption, which fell to a low of 14.4 dozen per person in 1995, has exceeded 15.0 dozen eggs per person for the past three years. Butter consumption closed the decade at 2.8 kg per person, down from 3.3 kg in 1990 but above the record low level 2.6 kg in 1997.

Data for 1999 on per-capita consumption of fruits and vegetables, oils and fats and fish will be released in October.

According to data released in *The Daily* on May 3, red meat consumption, buoyed by higher beef and pork consumption, increased to 62.3 kg per person in 1999, its highest level since 1995, but down 3.2% from 64.3 kg at the beginning of the decade. Beef accounted for almost half of all red meat consumed. On average, each Canadian consumed 31.0 kg of beef in 1999, above the levels of recent years, but nearly 9% below the level in 1990. Per-capita pork consumption stood at 27.4 kg in 1999, almost 5% above the level a decade earlier.

**Note:** These data represent food that is available for consumption and not actual quantities of food consumed in Canada. This is because they do not allow for losses in stores, households, private institutions or restaurants.

### Available on CANSIM: matrices 2260-2267.

Historical consumption data (1985 to 1999) for dairy products, beverages, eggs, pulses and nuts, sugars and syrups, cereals, meats and poultry, plus detailed information on production, stocks, international trade and supplies used by manufacturers will be available soon in *Food consumption in Canada, part I* (32-229-XPB, \$35). See *How to order publications*. An electronic version of this publication (32-229-XIB, \$26) will be available on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)) on June 29.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Debbie Dupuis (1-800-465-1991; 613-951-2553; fax: 613-951-3868) or Patricia Chandler (613-951-2506), Agriculture Division. ■

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## Steel primary forms

Week ending June 10, 2000 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending June 10 totalled 312 924 tonnes, down 1.6% from 318 127 tonnes a week earlier but up 1.3% from 308 860 tonnes a year earlier. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 7 553 771 tonnes, a 5.8% increase compared with 7 138 068 tonnes for the same period in 1999.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; [milsomg@statcan.ca](mailto:milsomg@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Crushing statistics

May 2000

Canadian oilseed processors crushed 265,540 metric tonnes of canola in May, according to the monthly survey of crushing plants. Oil production was 110,505 tonnes, and meal production totalled 164,455 tonnes.

In the first 10 months of the 1999/2000 crop year, the canola crush volume was 2,536,242 tonnes, a 5.6% decline from the 2,685,646 tonnes crushed in the same 10 months of 1998/99.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 5687.**

The May 2000 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149; 22-007-XIB, \$11/\$112) will be released in August. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714, [les.macartney@statcan.ca](mailto:les.macartney@statcan.ca)) or Rick Burroughs (613-951-2890, [rick.burroughs@statcan.ca](mailto:rick.burroughs@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Restaurants, caterers and taverns

April 2000

Estimated total receipts of restaurants, caterers and taverns for April were \$2.42 billion, an increase of 4.7% over the April 1999 estimate.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 62.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bill Birbeck (613-951-3506), Services Industries Division. ■

## Fruit and vegetable production

June 2000

The most recent data on 2000 growing intentions and the 1999 revised area, production and value data for fruits and vegetables are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 1371, 1372, 1375-1380, 1383-1389, 1392, 1393, 1395, 1399, 1401-1405, 5614 and 5615.**

The June 2000 issue of *Fruit and vegetable production* (22-003-XIB, \$23/\$46) which is published twice a year, will be available soon. A print-on-demand service is also available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bill Parsons (613 951-8727), Agriculture Division. ■

## Insights on...

*Insights on...* is a newsletter on trends in business and trade. It documents developments in Canadian industry and shows how businesses are responding to new challenges and opportunities. This issue also includes information on new products and services about business and industry available from Statistics Canada.

This issue includes the article "Frequently asked questions on small business," compiled by Michael Tjepkema and Jamie Brunet of Statistics Canada.

*Insights On...* (61F0019XIE) is available free on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). Paper copies (61F0019XPE, \$40/\$100) are now available.

To order, or for more information on the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684; [jamie.brunet@statcan.ca](mailto:jamie.brunet@statcan.ca)), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

## Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM

Second quarter 2000

*Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM* (61-517-XCB) is now available. An annual subscription with quarterly updates is \$995; a single copy without updates is \$350. The *Inter-corporate ownership 2000 directory* is also available (61-517-XPB, \$350). See *How to order publications*.

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For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jeannine D'Angelo (613-951-2604) or Steve

Dufour (613-951-2651), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Consumer price index, May 2000**  
**Catalogue number 62-001-XPB (\$11/\$103).**  
**Available at 7:00 am on Friday, June 16.**

**Exports by country, January-March 2000**  
**Catalogue number 65-003-XMB (\$62/\$206).**

**Exports by country, January-March 2000**  
**Catalogue number 65-003-XPB (\$124/\$412).**

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

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**Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.**

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Statistics Canada

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**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Change the statistics 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.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow moderate growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3  
Short-term Expectations Survey
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12  
Egg production, April 1997 12

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#### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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