



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Tuesday, September 19, 2000**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, July 2000** 2  
Manufacturers' shipments fell 1.3% in July to \$44.3 billion, led by declines in the motor vehicle and machinery industries.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

July 2000

Manufacturers' shipments fell by 1.3% to \$44.3 billion in July, led by declines in the motor vehicle and machinery industries.

Manufacturer's shipments have grown 2.2% since the beginning of 2000, and were 9.1% higher in July than in July 1999. The strong upward trend observed since the latter half of 1998 has slowed down since the beginning of this year.

Both unfilled orders and inventories increased in July.

Other recent Statistics Canada releases concerning the manufacturing sector show that industrial capacity utilization increased in the second quarter to 88.4%, just half a percentage point below the 1974 historic peak. According to the July Business Conditions Survey, fewer manufacturers expected to increase production in the third quarter, but four out of five manufacturers still expected to increase production or keep it at the same level. As well, the Labour Force Survey indicated that employment in the manufacturing sector was little changed in August following declines in June and July.

#### Manufacturers' shipments declined

Manufacturers' shipments decreased in 12 of the 22 major groups in July, representing 73.3% of the total value of shipments. Excluding the automotive sector, shipments declined 1.0%.

The motor vehicle industry (-2.8%) was the major contributor to the decline in shipments. The industry was affected by an extended maintenance shutdown in one plant for a model changeover and a fire in another plant. As well, higher diesel fuel costs and interest rates have also led to a lower demand for heavy trucks this year, prompting several truck manufacturers to announce layoffs. July's drop is in line with the slight downward trend in shipments the motor vehicle industry has seen since peaking in August 1999.

The second largest contributor to the decline in shipments in July was the machinery industry (-10.4%). The drop was concentrated in other machinery and equipment and turbine and power transmission equipment segments, and was almost entirely offset by a buildup of goods in process inventories.

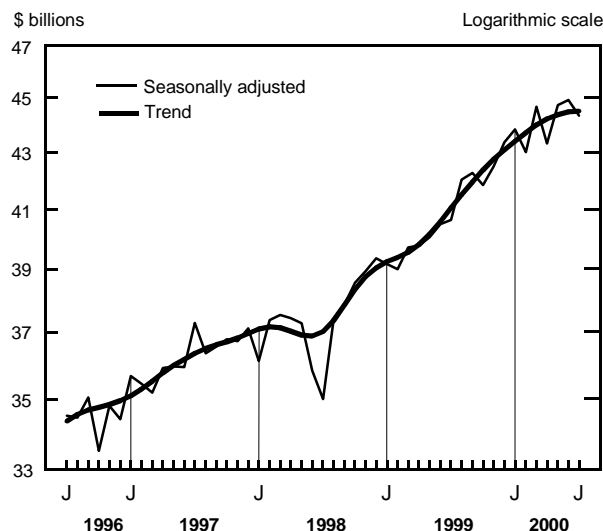
#### Note to readers

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. 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 to manufacturers in other countries.

#### Manufacturers' shipments decreased



The wood (-5.3%) and motor vehicle parts and accessories (-2.9%) industries were the other major contributors to the July decrease. Shipments in the wood industry fell as a result of a strike in British Columbia, decreased demand in the United States due to a decline in housing starts, and a price decrease of 1.6%.

The largest offsetting increase was in the paper and allied products industry (+3.7%), where a price increase of 1.6% was posted in July.

Manufacturers' shipments decreased in six provinces and the territories.

### Shipments by province and territory

	June 2000	July 2000	June to July 2000
seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change
Newfoundland	226	195	-14.1
Prince Edward Island	79	76	-4.4
Nova Scotia	704	681	-3.3
New Brunswick	896	912	1.8
Quebec	10,666	10,726	0.6
Ontario	24,198	23,712	-2.0
Manitoba	876	903	3.1
Saskatchewan	589	569	-3.3
Alberta	3,437	3,445	0.2
British Columbia	3,249	3,107	-4.4
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	5	5	-1.9

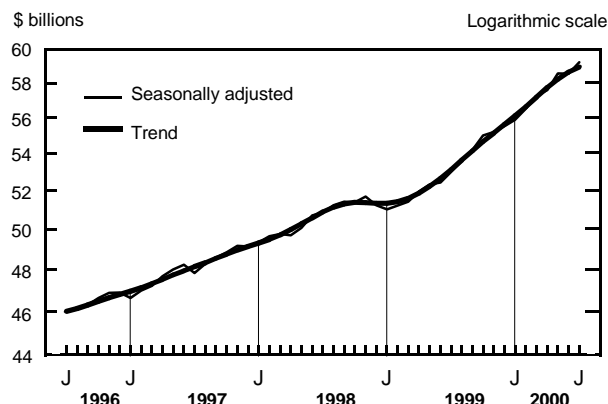
### Inventories rose

Manufacturers' inventories grew 1.2% in July to \$59.2 billion. Inventories have been increasing steadily since February 1999, except for a negligible decline in June. The rise in July was the result of an accumulation of inventories of finished products (+2.1%) and raw materials (+1.4%). Inventories have risen 6.7% since the beginning of 2000, and were 11.8% higher than in July 1999.

The major contributor to the July increase in inventories was the electrical and electronic products (+5.4%) industry. The bulk of the rise was in the raw materials inventories component, and was dispersed across the telecommunications, electronic parts and components, and computer industries.

Other significant contributors to the increase were the machinery (+3.6%) and chemicals products (+2.7%) industries.

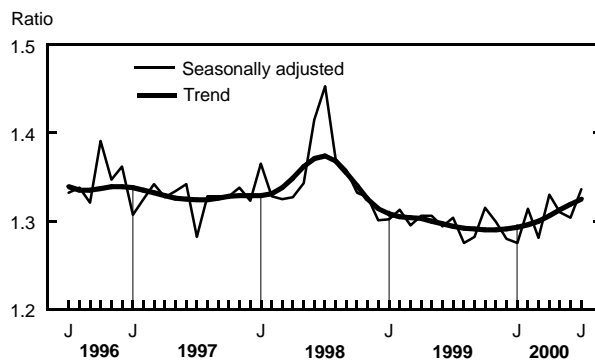
### Manufacturers' inventories rose



The main offsetting decrease in inventories was noted in the railroad rolling stocks industry (-7.5%).

As a consequence of the opposite movements in inventories and shipments, the inventory-to-shipments ratio jumped from 1.30 in June to 1.34 in July. Inventories have grown at a faster pace than shipments since the beginning of 2000. As a result, the trend of the inventory-to-shipments ratio has started to edge upwards in recent months.

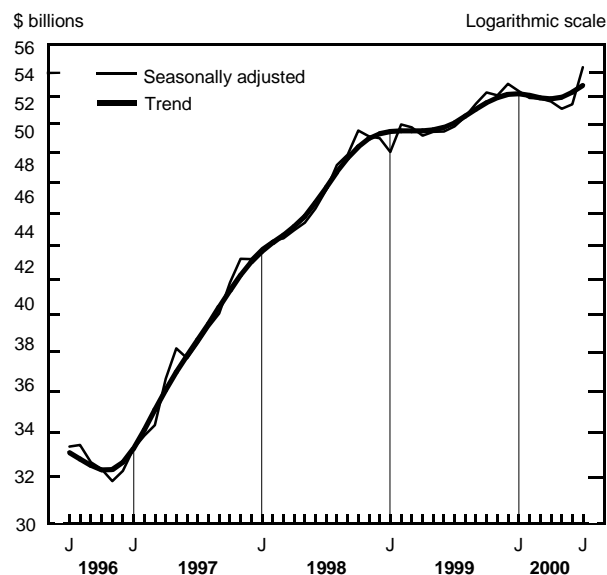
### Inventory-to-shipments ratio grew



### Unfilled orders surged

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders jumped 5.2% to \$56.2 billion in July. After cresting in December 1999 and declining in the first five months of 2000, unfilled orders started rising again in June.

### Unfilled orders lifted by aircraft



The July increase in unfilled orders was dominated by a surge of orders in the aircraft and aircraft parts industry (+9.4%). Excluding the aircraft and parts industry, unfilled orders rose 2.1% in July.

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

The July 2000 issue of the *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001-XPB, \$20/\$196) will be available shortly. See *How to order products*.

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	
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	43,003	-1.9	56,516	1.1	53,889	-0.9	42,500	-1.8	1.31
March 2000	44,666	3.9	57,238	1.3	53,844	-0.1	44,620	5.0	1.28
April 2000	43,310	-3.0	57,597	0.6	53,629	-0.4	43,096	-3.4	1.33
May 2000	44,721	3.3	58,579	1.7	53,093	-1.0	44,185	2.5	1.31
June 2000	44,924	0.5	58,560	-0.0	53,411	0.6	45,242	2.4	1.30
July 2000	44,329	-1.3	59,236	1.2	56,212	5.2	47,130	4.2	1.34

## Manufacturing industries except motor vehicles, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
			seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
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	34,584	-1.1	53,384	1.2	48,924	0.4	34,774	-1.0
March 2000	35,773	3.4	54,047	1.2	49,565	1.3	36,413	4.7
April 2000	34,991	-2.2	54,523	0.9	49,006	-1.1	34,432	-5.4
May 2000	35,975	2.8	55,413	1.6	48,616	-0.8	35,585	3.3
June 2000	36,164	0.5	55,419	0.0	49,149	1.1	36,697	3.1
July 2000	35,818	-1.0	56,070	1.2	51,755	5.3	38,424	4.7

## OTHER RELEASES

### Registered apprenticeship training 1998

Approximately 177,700 people were registered in trades apprenticeship training programs in 1998, 3.1% more than in 1997. While all sectors of registered apprenticeship training have grown in recent years, many of them still remain below 1991 levels.

The number of registered apprentices has been rising since 1995 after dropping in the early 1990s, a drop that coincided with the recession. The demand for apprentices declined during this period, perhaps the result of the weak economy and fewer opportunities for on-the-job training.

Overall registrations in apprenticeship training in 1998 were 7.9% lower than in 1991. The decrease is especially evident in the major trade groups of building construction and electrical/electronics and related. The food and services trades and the miscellaneous group

of other trades were the only types to have higher registration in 1998 than in 1991.

While registrations were down in most major trade groups, the total work force linked to these groups has been on the rise, and was higher in all sectors in 1998 than in 1991. The reasons for the slower recovery in apprenticeship registrations in recent years compared with the work force are not well understood.

For general inquiries, contact Sharon-Anne Borde (613-951-1503; fax: 613-951-9040; [sharon.anne.borde@statcan.ca](mailto:sharon.anne.borde@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Karl Skof (613-951-1529; fax: 613-951-6765; [skofkar@statcan.ca](mailto:skofkar@statcan.ca)) or Bernard Bourgoin (613-951-1506; fax: 613-951-6765; [bourber@statcan.ca](mailto:bourber@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

### Registered apprenticeship training

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Registered apprentices	192,946	180,963	168,983	165,668	164,569	166,489	172,343	177,741

### Registered apprenticeship training by industry

Major trade groups	1991	1997	1998	1991 to 1998 % change	1997 to 1998
Building construction trades	46,925	33,754	34,673	-26.1	2.7
Electrical, electronics and related	37,035	28,384	29,065	-21.5	2.4
Food and service trades	11,422	17,961	18,088	58.4	0.7
Industrial and mechanical trades	15,112	14,336	14,617	-3.3	2.0
Metal fabricating trades	39,534	36,026	38,262	-3.2	6.2
Motor vehicle and heavy equipment	39,316	38,002	38,658	-1.7	1.7
Other trades	3,602	3,880	4,378	21.5	12.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>192,946</b>	<b>172,343</b>	<b>177,741</b>	<b>-7.9</b>	<b>3.1</b>

### Monthly railway carloadings June 2000

The freight loaded by railways in June totalled 21.6 million metric tonnes (excluding intermodal traffic). This was an increase of 9.4% over June 1999. The intermodal tonnage, represented by "container-on-flat-cars" and "trailer-on-flat-cars," was 2.2 million metric tonnes, 11.4% higher than in the same period in 1999.

### Available on CANSIM: matrix 1430.

The June 2000 issue of *Railway carloadings (monthly)* (52-001-XIE, \$8/\$77) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact J.R. Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; [laroque@statcan.ca](mailto:laroque@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division.

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## Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard

July 2000

Oriented strandboard production totalled 646 553 cubic metres in July, up 0.6% from 642 440 cubic metres in July 1999. Particleboard production reached 217 160 cubic metres, an increase of 6.6% from 203 707 cubic metres in July 1999. Fibreboard production totalled 78 099 cubic metres, down 16.3% from 93 126 cubic metres in July 1999.

Year-to-date oriented strandboard production totalled 4 538 404 cubic metres, a 1.9% increase from 4 454 450 cubic metres for the same period in 1999. Year-to-date particleboard production reached 1 461 057 cubic metres, up 4.1% from 1 403 316 cubic metres compared with the same period in 1999. Year-to-date fibreboard production was 625 133 cubic metres, up 8.4% from 576 558 cubic metres during the same period in 1999.

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

The July 2000 issue of *Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard* (36-003-XIB, \$5/\$47), is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Sara Breen (613-951-3521; [sara.breen@statcan.ca](mailto:sara.breen@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Construction type plywood

July 2000

Canadian firms produced 159 310 cubic metres of construction-type plywood in July, up 1.7% from the 156 719 cubic metres produced in July 1999.

Year-to-date production totalled 1 168 436 cubic metres, an increase of 2.9% from the 1 135 888 cubic metres produced during the same period in 1999.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 122.**

The July 2000 issue of *Construction type plywood* (35-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Sara Breen (613-951-3521; [sara.breen@statcan.ca](mailto:sara.breen@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Crushing statistics

August 2000

Canadian oilseed processors crushed 237,985 metric tonnes of canola in August, according to the monthly survey of crushing plants. Oil production totalled 100,625 tonnes, and meal production was 148,126 tonnes.

This is the highest August crush since August 1996, when 242,443 tonnes of canola was processed.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 5687.**

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

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 Karen Gray (204-983-2856; [karen.gray@statcan.ca](mailto:karen.gray@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## NEW PRODUCTS

**Construction type plywood**, July 2000  
Catalogue number 35-001-XIB (\$5/\$47).

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

**Railway carloadings (monthly)**, June 2000  
Catalogue number 52-001-XIE (\$8/\$77).

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

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#### MAJOR RELEASES



- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the enrollees on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 41 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 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow moderate growth during the year.

#### OTHER RELEASES

- **Harvested Index May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Flag production, April 1997** 12

#### PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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