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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, May 16, 2001
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MAJOR RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

March 2001

Manufacturers regained some lost ground in March, as shipments rose 1.7% following February's 3.9% slide. Increases in the motor vehicle (+5.3%) and computer and electronic products (+5.9%) industries boosted shipments to $43.7 billion for the month. Despite March's increases, shipments remained 5.2% below the peak of $46.1 billion seen in October 2000.

Shipments rose in seven provinces in March; higher values were reported in 15 of 21 industries, accounting for 85% of total manufacturing shipments. Notwithstanding March's increase, the manufacturing sector has faltered significantly in recent months. Market conditions as of late include a weaker economy in the United States, higher inventory levels and a general sense of economic pessimism. As a result, the Canadian manufacturing sector has seen contract cancellations, production slowdowns and layoffs since the autumn of 2000.

Shipments by province and the territories

	Feb. 2001	March 2001	Feb. to March 2001
	Seasonally adjusted		
	$ millions		% change
Newfoundland	200	198	-0.9
Prince Edward Island	99	99	0.1
Nova Scotia	699	744	6.4
New Brunswick	987	980	-0.7
Quebec	10,260	10,328	0.7
Ontario	22,465	23,033	2.5
Manitoba	949	987	4.0
Saskatchewan	622	643	3.4
Alberta	3,758	3,785	0.7
British Columbia	2,963	2,940	-0.8
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	4	4	-2.4

March inventory levels were unchanged at $65.3 billion, after gradual increases over the first two months of 2001. Coupled with the slight rebound in shipments, the inventories-to-shipments ratio recovered to 1.49, compared with February's jump to 1.52. Unfilled orders resumed a downward shift for the third time in four months, decreasing 1.6%. New orders also lost most of February's gain, declining 3.5%.

According to the April 2001 Business Conditions Survey for manufacturing, fewer manufacturers (27%) indicated that they expected to decrease production levels further in the second quarter of 2001, while 58% said their production would remain constant. Although they were less concerned with finished product inventory levels, manufacturers expressed some unease about their level of orders, and indicated that reduced employment was a possibility.

For the second consecutive month, manufacturing employment remained constant in April, as reported by the most recent release of the Labour Force Survey.

Note to readers

Data collected from the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing are now classified according to the 1997 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which replaces the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). Reference year 2000 is the last year for which data are released on an SIC basis.

The survey has adopted the NAICS for its 2001 reference year, while previous years' data have been re-calculated to the new classification system back to 1992. Detailed NAICS estimates are now available on the Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System (CANSIM).

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 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.

Motor vehicle and computer and electronic product manufacturers regained lost ground

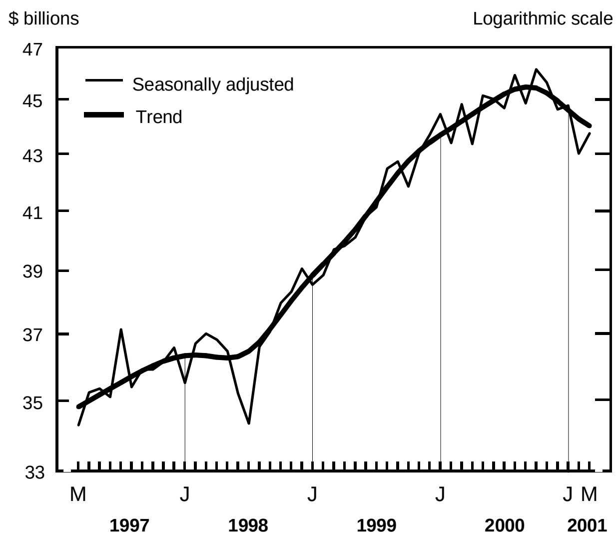
Monthly shipments of motor vehicles rose 5.3% to $5.2 billion in March, the first increase in five months. Shipments were 17.8% below levels reported just one year previous. The lower shipment values are in line with previously announced production cutbacks, as manufacturers attempt to reduce their inventories. Also, sales of motor vehicles have been slowing since the autumn of 2000.

Climbing 5.9%, the computer and electronic products industry got some relief from an otherwise dismal start to 2001. Manufacturers shipped $2.7 billion worth of product in March, well below the average monthly shipments of 2000, and 26.8% below the peak achieved in August 2000. The computer and electronic products industry faced similar market conditions to the motor vehicle industry, and reacted likewise by slowing production.

The chemical industry (+3.0%) and the motor vehicle parts industry (+3.5%) were also among the larger movers in March. Chemical manufacturers benefited from rising prices (+1.1%), as reported by the recent release of the Industrial Product Price Index. Motor vehicle parts manufacturers reported shipments of $2.4 billion.

The major offsetting movement was a 7.6% decrease in the aerospace product and parts industry.

March shipments rise

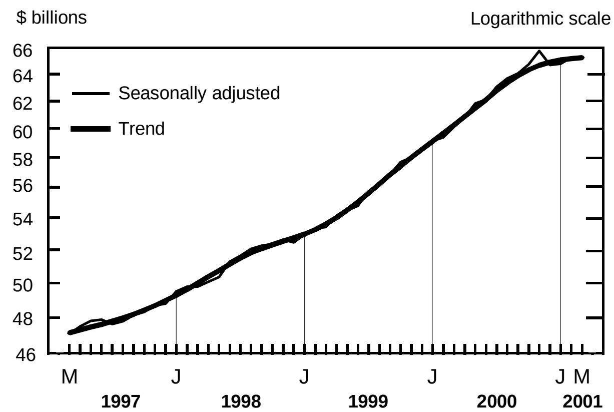


Inventories remained flat

March inventories were $65.3 billion, unchanged from February. Though climbing for the last couple of years, inventories in March were $5.2 billion greater than they were in March 2000. Several manufacturers are now taking action to adjust inventories to match market conditions.

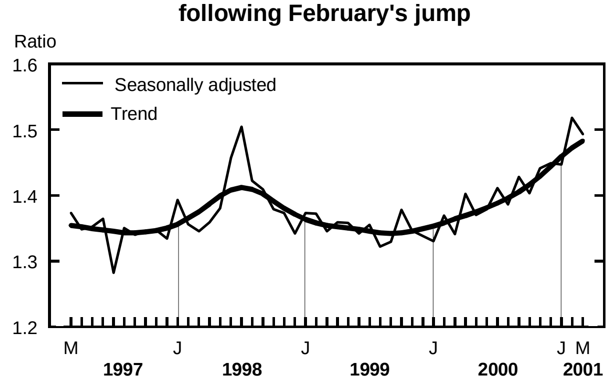
While the raw material (+0.2%) and the finished products (+0.4%) sectors each saw modest gains in inventory levels, goods-in-process inventories countered these increases with a 0.7% drop in March. Aerospace product and parts manufacturers took the largest share of inventories that were accumulated, (+1.3% to $7.4 billion), and were followed by the chemical industry, (+1.6%). However, inventories of computer and electronic products manufacturers contracted for the second consecutive month (-2.5%), contributing to the unchanged inventories for March.

Inventories remain flat



The inventories-to-shipments ratio recovered slightly in March to 1.49, as shipments outpaced stagnant inventories, after hitting 1.52 in February, its highest level since May 1992. The trend in the inventories-to-shipments ratio continued to edge up, as it has done since the fall of 1999.

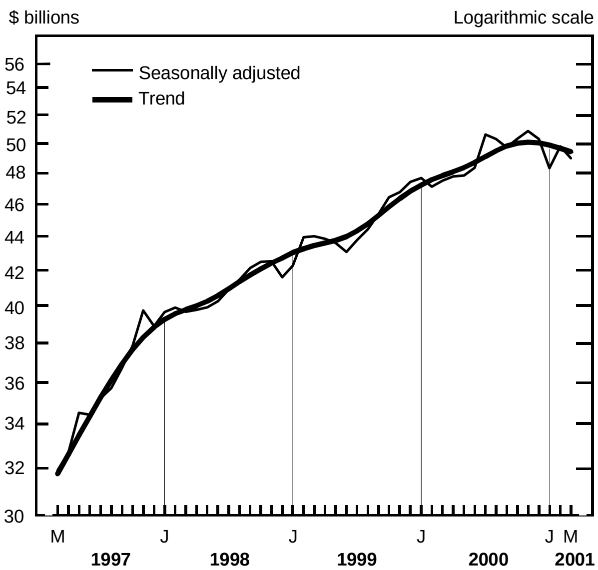
Inventories-to-shipments ratio falls slightly, following February's jump



Orders resumed a downward movement

Unfilled orders decreased 1.6% to $49 billion in March, the third decline in four months. Orders had temporarily recovered in February, largely due to higher levels reported by the aerospace product and parts industry. March’s decrease was concentrated in the computer and electronic products (-5.4%), machinery (-3.4%) and aerospace product and parts (-0.8%) industries. Ongoing market uneasiness and contract cancellations may partly explain the lower orders for the month.

Unfilled orders resume downward movement



Unfilled orders in the electrical equipment, appliance and component industry rose 4.1%, the first advance in three months, partly offsetting the overall decrease.

New orders decreased 3.5% in March, due to the substantial declines of orders in the aerospace product and parts, and machinery industries.

Available on CANSIM: tables 3040014 and 3040015 and matrices 15000-15037, 15039, 15040 and 15042.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as in CANSIM, but in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

The March 2001 issue of the *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001-XIB, $15/$147) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available on request. To order data, or for general information, contact the Dissemination Officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-0600; *kowarus@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 2000	44,816	3.3	60,120	1.2	47,517	0.8	45,216	5.5	1.34
April 2000	43,362	-3.2	60,781	1.1	47,788	0.6	43,633	-3.5	1.40
May 2000	45,136	4.1	61,816	1.7	47,851	0.1	45,199	3.6	1.37
June 2000	45,010	-0.3	62,083	0.4	48,362	1.1	45,520	0.7	1.38
July 2000	44,670	-0.8	63,032	1.5	50,622	4.7	46,931	3.1	1.41
August 2000	45,915	2.8	63,647	1.0	50,295	-0.6	45,588	-2.9	1.39
September 2000	44,853	-2.3	64,035	0.6	49,745	-1.1	44,302	-2.8	1.43
October 2000	46,140	2.9	64,724	1.1	50,342	1.2	46,736	5.5	1.40
November 2000	45,631	-1.1	65,771	1.6	50,874	1.1	46,164	-1.2	1.44
December 2000	44,623	-2.2	64,675	-1.7	50,302	-1.1	44,051	-4.6	1.45
January 2001	44,772	0.3	64,791	0.2	48,332	-3.9	42,802	-2.8	1.45
February 2001	43,005	-3.9	65,272	0.7	49,804	3.0	44,478	3.9	1.52
March 2001	43,741	1.7	65,295	0.0	48,992	-1.6	42,929	-3.5	1.49

Manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	Seasonally adjusted							
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change
Mars 2000	35,866	3.1	56,681	1.2	45,349	1.7	36,607	6.1
April 2000	35,092	-2.2	57,383	1.2	45,493	0.3	35,235	-3.7
May 2000	36,201	3.2	58,323	1.6	45,656	0.4	36,365	3.2
June 2000	36,256	0.2	58,580	0.4	46,322	1.5	36,922	1.5
July 2000	36,179	-0.2	59,498	1.6	48,454	4.6	38,310	3.8
August 2000	36,989	2.2	59,876	0.6	48,305	-0.3	36,841	-3.8
September 2000	36,326	-1.8	60,362	0.8	47,775	-1.1	35,796	-2.8
October 2000	37,288	2.6	61,023	1.1	48,481	1.5	37,995	6.1
November 2000	37,204	-0.2	62,104	1.8	48,989	1.0	37,713	-0.7
December 2000	36,588	-1.7	60,998	-1.8	48,501	-1.0	36,100	-4.3
January 2001	37,201	1.7	61,304	0.5	46,598	-3.9	35,298	-2.2
February 2001	35,747	-3.9	61,803	0.8	48,043	3.1	37,192	5.4
March 2001	36,139	1.1	61,834	0.0	47,274	-1.6	35,369	-4.9

■

OTHER RELEASES

Adult criminal court statistics

1999/2000

Provincial/territorial courts in nine jurisdictions and Superior Courts in two jurisdictions across Canada, excluding New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia and Nunavut, processed 378,600 cases in 1999/2000, down 4% from 1998/99 and down 15% from 1994/95. In 1999/2000, 811,400 charges were processed, down 3% from 1998/99 and 8% from 1994/95.

However, during the past six years, some indicators of court workload have increased. In 1999/2000, 48% of all cases involved multiple charges, up from 44% in 1994/95. As well, 31% of all cases required six or more appearances, up from only 23% six years earlier. Overall, the number of case appearances has remained stable in spite of the decline in cases being processed. Further, the mean number of appearances per case has increased from 4.1 appearances in 1994/95 to 4.8 appearances in 1999/2000.

Impaired driving and common assault were the two most frequent offences in 1999/2000, each accounting for 12% of cases. While the proportion of common assault cases has remained stable since 1994/95, the proportion of impaired driving cases declined from 15% of all cases to 12% since 1994/95. This decline was in step with the 31% reduction in the number of impaired driving cases appearing in court over this period.

In recent years, adult criminal courts have been sentencing offenders to probation more often. Between 1994/95 and 1998/99, the proportion of guilty cases with a probation sentence increased from 37% to 42%. This rate remained stable in 1999/2000.

Judges imposed a fine in 39% of all guilty cases; the median fine was $300. Imprisonment was used as a sanction in one-third of all cases, unchanged from 1994/95. The majority of terms associated with prison sentences were of short duration; 48% were for one month or less, and 4% were for two years or more.

Available on CANSIM: tables 2520003 and 2520004 and matrices 2230-2256.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as in CANSIM, but in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

The *Juristat: Adult criminal court statistics, 1999/2000*, Vol. 21, no. 2 (85-002-XIE, $8/$70; 85-002-XPE, $10/$93) is now available.*Adult criminal court data tables, 1999/2000* (85F0032XIE, $30) is also now available. See *How to order products*.

For standard tables or more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Consumer Price Index, April 2001
Catalogue number 62-001-XIB ($8/$77).
Available at 7 am Thursday, May 17

Consumer Price Index, April 2001
Catalogue number 62-001-XPB ($11/$103).
Available at 7 am Thursday, May 17

New motor vehicle sales, March 2001
Catalogue number 63-007-XIB ($13/$124).

Employment, earnings and hours, February 2001
Catalogue number 72-002-XIB ($24/$240).

Juristat: Adult criminal court statistics 1999/2000, Vol. 21 no. 2
Catalogue number 85-002-XIE ($8/$70).

Juristat: Adult criminal court statistics, 1999/2000, Vol. 21 no. 2
Catalogue number 85-002-XPE ($10/$93).

Adult criminal court data tables, 1999/2000,
Catalogue number 85F0032XIE ($30).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB are electronic versions on diskette and -XCD are electronic versions on compact disc.

How to order products

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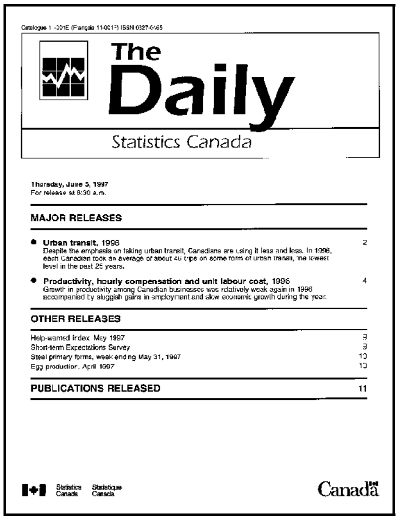
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **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.

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