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The Daily

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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

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Monthly Survey of Manufacturing
April 2001

Manufacturing shipments fell back 0.6% in April to $43.4 billion, losing some of the ground gained in March. Shipments, which decreased in four of the previous six months, were 5.8% below their October 2000 apex of $46.0 billion. The computer and electronic products industry led April's decline, falling 6.0%, followed by petroleum and coal products (-4.7%), and paper manufacturing (-3.5%).

Many manufacturers continued to face the challenges of weaker product demand and high inventory levels in April. Contract cancellations, production slowdowns, and layoffs have affected the manufacturing sector in 2001. Fourteen of twenty-one industries lost ground in April, representing 51% of total shipments; six provinces reported lower shipment values as well.

Shipments by province and the territories

	March 2001	April 2001	March to April 2001
	Seasonally adjusted		
	$ millions		% change
Newfoundland	175	180	3.3
Prince Edward Island	99	99	0.4
Nova Scotia	738	727	-1.5
New Brunswick	982	1,036	5.4
Quebec	10,349	9,979	-3.6
Ontario	22,983	23,225	1.1
Manitoba	980	977	-0.3
Saskatchewan	636	590	-7.2
Alberta	3,770	3,635	-3.6
British Columbia	2,953	2,937	-0.5
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	4	4	11.1

Total inventories, valued at $65.1 billion, were relatively unchanged for the third consecutive month. Unfilled orders, boosted by increases in the aerospace products and parts industry, were up a modest 0.2% in April; however, excluding the aerospace industry increase, orders fell 1.1%.

The May 2001 Labour Force Survey reported the loss of 12,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector in April, bringing cumulative losses for the year to 42,000. This contrasts sharply with the last five months of 2000, when manufacturers added 73,000 jobs to their payrolls. The lower levels of employment and output has resulted in a weakening rate of capacity use, according to the recent release of the industrial capacity utilization rates. Manufacturers operated at 83.5% capacity during the first quarter of 2001, down 1.7% percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2000. The majority of manufacturing groups reported reducing their use of production capacity, led by the electrical and electronic products industry. Capacity use in this industry plummeted from 96.3% during the fourth quarter of 2000 to 83.3% in the first quarter of 2001, a decrease of 13.0 percentage points. Telecommunication equipment manufacturers were particularly battered. The other major contributor to the decline was transportation equipment, whose rate dropped 2.2 percentage points to 84.8%, as manufacturers scaled back production in a continuing effort to reduce inventory levels.

Note to readers

Estimates for the poultry processing industry and the seafood product preparation and packaging industry have been revised for January 1999 to December 2000, and are now available on CANSIM in tables 3040014 and 3040015. Matrices revised include 15000 to 15003, 15014 to 15017, 15024 and 15025.

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.

Computer and electronic product manufacturers hit a new low

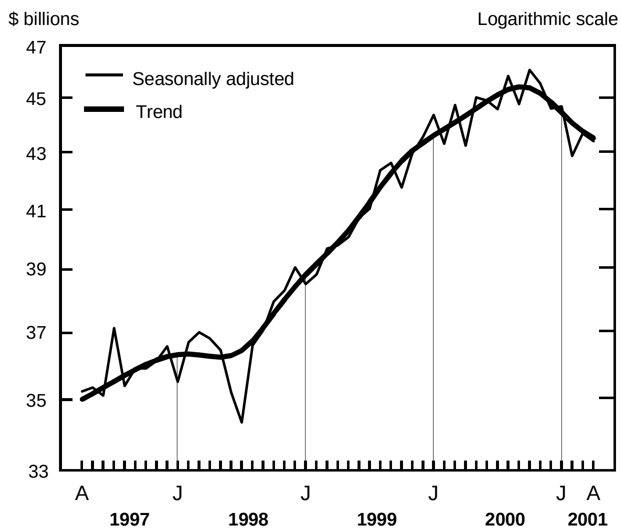
Following March's brief resurgence in activity, computer and electronic product manufacturers reported a 6.0% decrease in shipments for April, wiping out all the previous month's gains. Shipments, at $2.5 billion, were at their lowest since October 1999. High inventories and reduced demand continued to influence this industry.

Shipments of petroleum and coal products fell 4.7% in April. As well, the declining market price for paper (-1.9%) contributed to lower shipments (-3.5%) in the paper manufacturing industry.

The motor vehicle industry and the wood products industry both posted significant counteracting movements in April. Motor vehicle shipments rose 3.2% to $5.4 billion. Despite this increase, shipments remained 14% below their October 2000 peak. Faltering demand and high retail inventory levels have challenged motor vehicle manufacturers in recent months.

April's 4.0% increase in wood product shipments follows two consecutive months of decline, and was partly due to a 1.2% rise in prices for lumber, sawmill and other wood products. The Canada–United States softwood lumber agreement expired at the end of March.

April shipments fell back



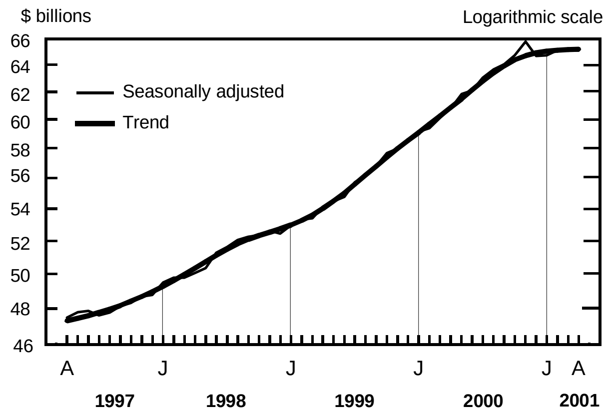
Inventories remained flat

Inventories, totalling $65.1 billion in April, remained largely unchanged for the third consecutive month, this after steadily increasing over the previous two years. In recent months, manufacturers have adjusted their production levels to curb inventory expansion. A decrease in raw materials inventories of 1.1% was counteracted by increases of 1.2% in finished products and 0.4% in goods-in-process inventories.

The computer and electronic products industry reported a 1.6% decline in inventories in April; inventories of the petroleum and coal products industry also dropped 4.6%.

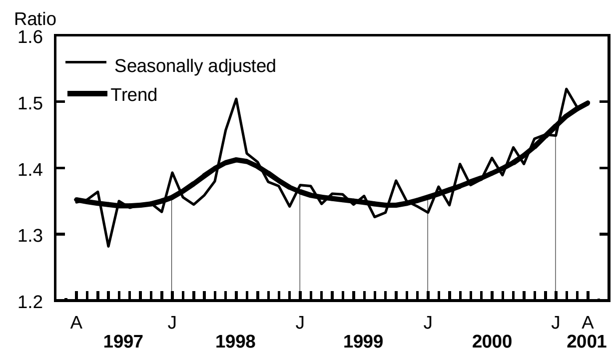
These decreases were offset by a 1.8% increase in the aerospace product and parts industry. With the exception of a couple of months, aerospace inventories have been steadily climbing in recent years.

April inventories remained flat



Following March's decrease, the April inventory-to-shipment ratio edged up to 1.50. The trend, which has been consistently climbing since the autumn of 1999, continued to rise modestly this month as well.

Inventory-to-shipment ratio edged up

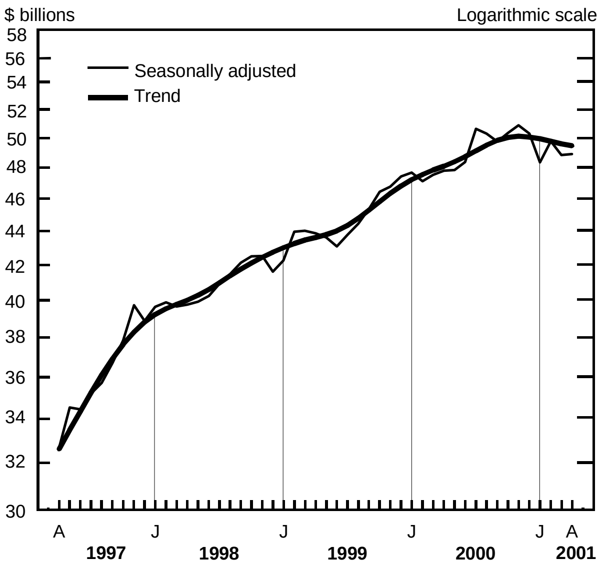


April orders climbed slightly

Unfilled orders posted a slight 0.2% increase to $48.9 billion. In 2001, unfilled orders have fluctuated, largely because of movements in the aerospace products and parts industry. The trend for unfilled orders has been declining since the end of 2000. In April, orders in the aerospace industry gained 2.1%, which more than offset the 7.0% decrease reported by the computer and electronic products industry. Excluding the impact of the aerospace products and parts industry, unfilled orders decreased 1.1%.

New orders moved up 1.7% in April, again due primarily to increases in the aerospace products and parts industry.

Slight increase in unfilled orders



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

The April 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, Marketing and Dissemination Section (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Craig Kuntz (613-951-7092; *kuntcra@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 2000	43,233	-3.3	60,781	1.1	47,788	0.6	43,504	-3.6	1.41
May 2000	45,004	4.1	61,816	1.7	47,851	0.1	45,068	3.6	1.37
June 2000	44,878	-0.3	62,083	0.4	48,362	1.1	45,388	0.7	1.38
July 2000	44,560	-0.7	63,032	1.5	50,622	4.7	46,821	3.2	1.41
August 2000	45,812	2.8	63,647	1.0	50,295	-0.6	45,485	-2.9	1.39
September 2000	44,748	-2.3	64,035	0.6	49,745	-1.1	44,197	-2.8	1.43
October 2000	46,042	2.9	64,724	1.1	50,342	1.2	46,638	5.5	1.41
November 2000	45,536	-1.1	65,771	1.6	50,874	1.1	46,069	-1.2	1.44
December 2000	44,592	-2.1	64,675	-1.7	50,302	-1.1	44,019	-4.4	1.45
January 2001	44,668	0.2	64,723	0.1	48,352	-3.9	42,719	-3.0	1.45
February 2001	42,873	-4.0	65,103	0.6	49,762	2.9	44,283	3.7	1.52
March 2001	43,669	1.9	65,110	0.0	48,835	-1.9	42,743	-3.5	1.49
April 2001	43,391	-0.6	65,093	-0.0	48,914	0.2	43,469	1.7	1.50

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 2000	34,963	-2.3	57,383	1.2	45,493	0.3	35,107	-3.9
May 2000	36,069	3.2	58,323	1.6	45,656	0.4	36,233	3.2
June 2000	36,124	0.2	58,580	0.4	46,322	1.5	36,790	1.5
July 2000	36,070	-0.2	59,498	1.6	48,454	4.6	38,201	3.8
August 2000	36,886	2.3	59,876	0.6	48,305	-0.3	36,737	-3.8
September 2000	36,221	-1.8	60,362	0.8	47,775	-1.1	35,691	-2.8
October 2000	37,190	2.7	61,023	1.1	48,481	1.5	37,896	6.2
November 2000	37,109	-0.2	62,104	1.8	48,989	1.0	37,617	-0.7
December 2000	36,557	-1.5	60,998	-1.8	48,501	-1.0	36,069	-4.1
January 2001	37,082	1.4	61,238	0.4	46,614	-3.9	35,195	-2.4
February 2001	35,614	-4.0	61,633	0.6	47,996	3.0	36,996	5.1
March 2001	36,034	1.2	61,652	0.0	47,113	-1.8	35,152	-5.0
April 2001	35,551	-1.3	61,680	0.0	47,214	0.2	35,652	1.4

■

OTHER RELEASES

Construction Union Wage Rate Index
May 2001

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) rose 0.2% in May from 117.8 in April (1992=100). The composite index increased 0.4% compared with May 2000.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes (1992=100) are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 3270003 and 3270004 and matrices 956, 958 and 9922-9927.

The second quarter 2001 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, $24/$79) will be available in September. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susie Boyd (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Passenger bus and urban transit
Third quarter 2000

Urban transit ridership continued its surge for the third quarter running, rising 3.6% in the third quarter compared with the third quarter of 1999. This rate of growth topped the 3.0% quarterly rise in 1999 and far outpaced the loss of 0.6% from 1997 to 1998.

Canadians made 350 million passenger trips on the nation's urban transit systems between July and September 2000, up from 336 million in the third quarter of 1999. In the first nine months of 2000, 1.10 billion passenger trips were recorded on the nation's urban transit systems, up from the 1.06 billion trips made during the first nine months of 1999.

Revenues for urban transit systems totalled $460 million in the third quarter, up 5.6% from the third quarter of 1999. Revenues for the first three quarters of 2000 were $1.41 billion, surpassing those of the first three quarters of 1999 by almost $90 million.

In the third quarter of 2000, both scheduled inter-city ridership and revenues improved in line with the growth in the first two quarters, the result of a strong Canadian economy. Inter-city passenger ridership grew 1.7% in the third quarter of 2000 to 3.5 million passenger trips. Revenues were up 13.7% to $75 million.

Revenues for the industry as a whole reached $840 million in the third quarter of 2000, up 11.1% from the third quarter of 1999.

Available on CANSIM: table 4080001 and matrices 346 and 347.

To obtain data, contact Jean-Robert Larocque, (613-951-2486; *laroque@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Harold Kohn, (613-951-0162; *kohnhar@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Restaurants, caterers and taverns
April 2001

Estimated total receipts of restaurants, caterers and taverns for April were $2.55 billion, an increase of 4.7% over the April 2000 estimate.

Available on CANSIM: table 3550001 and 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. ■

Aircraft movement statistics
December 2000

Aircraft movement statistics are now available. The number of take-offs and landings at the 100 airports with Nav Canada air traffic control towers and flight service stations totalled 377,953 in December 2000, down 7.8% from December 1999.

Statistics for the 110 Canadian airports without air traffic control towers are also available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jim Hines (613-951-0134; fax: 613-951-0010; *aviationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

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

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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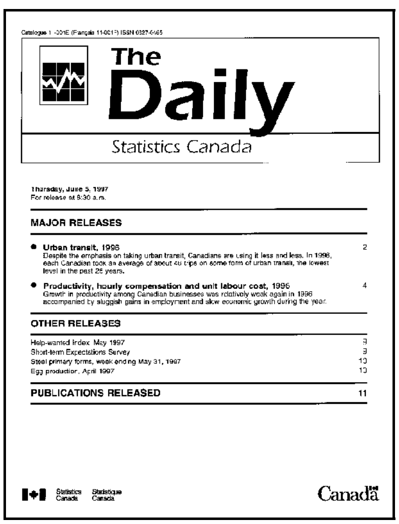
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **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.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997	9
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	10
Egg production, April 1997	10

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