

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, May 2001**
 Driven by a rebounding auto sector, manufacturing shipments grew 2.1% in May to \$44.6 billion, the strongest monthly gain since October 2000.

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- **Private and public investment, 2001**
 Substantial increases in proposed investment in the oil and gas extraction industry will likely drive total capital spending in 2001 to its highest level ever, according to revised intentions on public and private investment.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

May 2001

Driven by a rebounding auto sector, manufacturing shipments grew 2.1% in May to \$44.6 billion, the strongest monthly gain since October 2000.

Manufacturing shipments edged up for the third consecutive month, led by a solid 5.5% increase in the motor vehicle industry. Rising industrial prices contributed to significantly higher shipments for the petroleum and coal products industry and the wood products industry. The computer and electronic products industry, which had been floundering because of a global slump in demand for communications-related products, remained quite volatile. The industry posted a 3.4% increase in May, following April's 6.6% drop.

Twelve of 21 industries, representing 74% of total shipments, saw higher shipment values in May; seven provinces reported increases.

Shipments by province and territory

	April 2001	May 2001	April to May 2001
Seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change
Newfoundland	180	184	2.3
Prince Edward Island	99	101	1.7
Nova Scotia	737	719	-2.4
New Brunswick	1,041	1,195	14.7
Quebec	10,225	10,204	-0.2
Ontario	23,269	23,764	2.1
Manitoba	980	987	0.7
Saskatchewan	590	589	-0.1
Alberta	3,649	3,820	4.7
British Columbia	2,936	3,043	3.6
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	4	4	-7.7

Despite recent advances in the manufacturing sector, shipments continued to hold at 0.9% below 2000 levels. The state of the economy in the United States, Canada's primary trading partner, remained uncertain. Lately, Canadian manufacturers have faced weaker product demand and high inventory levels. Production slowdowns and layoffs have affected the manufacturing sector throughout 2001, as reflected by the June release of the Labour Force Survey. Job losses in manufacturing continued to mount during the month of June, as 11,000 additional jobs were lost, bringing cumulative losses for the first half of 2001 to 53,000 jobs. This nearly offsets the 55,000 manufacturing positions created during the

Note to readers

In addition to current month estimates, data for the previous three months are regularly revised. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of company data, incorrect information reported earlier, replacement of estimates with actual figures (once available), and seasonal adjustments. Consult the appropriate CANSIM tables or matrices for revised data.

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. Readers 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.

second half of 2000. The industries most affected by the job losses were computer and electronic parts, transportation equipment and wood products.

Following three months of relative stability, the value of inventories grew 0.8% in May to \$65.7 billion, the highest level since November 2000. The growth was led by a 1.8% rise in goods-in-process inventories. Unfilled orders, boosted by increases in the aerospace product and parts industry, were up 1.0%.

Motor vehicles drove up shipments

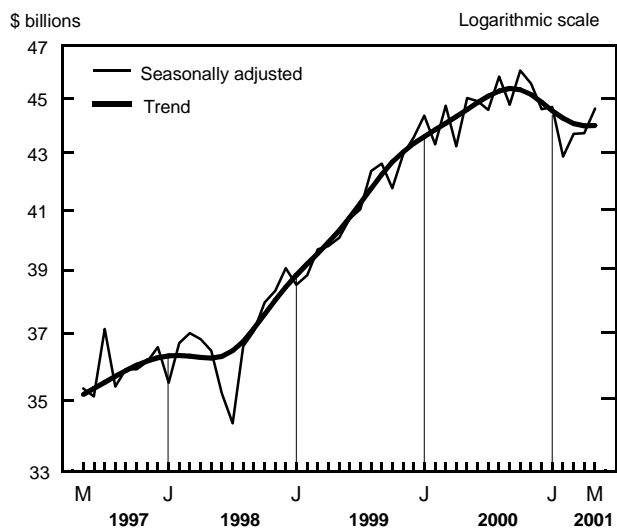
For the third consecutive month, activity in the motor vehicle industry increased, benefiting from the recent resurgence of U.S. consumer demand. Auto sales in the United States, responding to retail incentives, have since convincingly bounced back, effectively stopping the decline in North American auto production. Canadian shipments were \$5.8 billion in May, up 5.5% from April and 17.4% above February's low. Despite the upsurge in manufacturing, motor vehicle shipments remained well short of the levels seen in the last two years.

Strong price increases boosted May's shipment values in both the petroleum and coal products and wood products industries. Petroleum and coal product manufacturers reported shipments of \$3.0 billion, 9.3% above April's level and the highest value since

January 2001. Contributing to the increase was a 3.1% rise in petroleum and coal prices for the same period. Shipments of wood products advanced 6.9%, the result of a 9.1% jump in lumber, sawmill product and other wood product prices.

Offsetting May's increase was a 3.8% decline in machinery manufacturing. Shipments slipped below the \$2-billion mark for the first time since July 2000. The paper industry also reported a 1.8% decline in May, to \$2.9 billion. This marked the second consecutive decrease in paper shipments, which were 10.6% short of the record reached in September 2000. Prices for pulp and paper products fell 1.5% in May, and have been gradually declining since December 2000.

May shipments climbed



Inventories remained flat

Inventories grew 0.8% to \$65.7 billion in May, after slipping in April. Total inventories approached the peak of \$65.8 billion registered in November 2000. In recent months, manufacturers had adjusted their production levels to curb the expansion of finished product inventories. Goods-in-process inventories rose 1.8%, and were coupled with increases in raw material (+0.6%) and finished product (+0.3%) inventories.

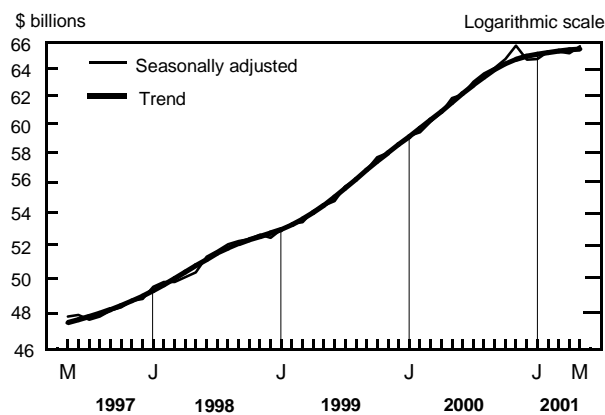
The aerospace product and parts industry reported a 2.4% increase to \$7.7 billion; its inventories have been rising throughout 2001.

Since peaking last November at \$6.9 billion, manufacturers in the computer and electronic products industry have been gradually drawing down their inventories. Consequently, manufacturers had lowered

their production by 25% over the previous five months. Despite the cuts, May inventories in this industry actually climbed for the first time in three months, up 2.6% to \$6.3 billion. Also increasing in May were inventories of petroleum and coal product manufacturers, up 8.4% to 2.0 billion.

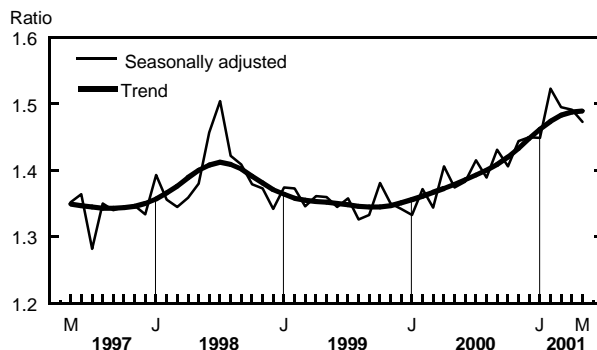
Small decreases were reported by the fabricated metal products industry (-2.3%), and the primary metal industry (-1.4%).

Inventories rose



The inventory/shipment ratio was 1.47 in May, continuing to slip from its peak of 1.52 in February. The trend, which had been consistently climbing since the autumn of 1999, remained unchanged for the second month in a row. Meanwhile, the finished product inventory/shipment ratio fell to 0.45, the second decline in three months. Prior to this, the ratio had been progressively increasing since early 2000.

Inventory/shipment ratio eased back



Orders climbed, led by aerospace products and parts

Unfilled orders rose for a second straight month, up 1.0% to \$50.0 billion. The increase resulted from a 5.8% expansion in orders of the aerospace products and parts industry. Excluding aerospace, unfilled orders were off 2.3% in May. The machinery (-3.5%) and electrical equipment, appliances and components industries (-11.2%) led May's retreat in orders. While the trend for unfilled orders had been declining since the latter half of 2000, it has levelled off since March 2001.

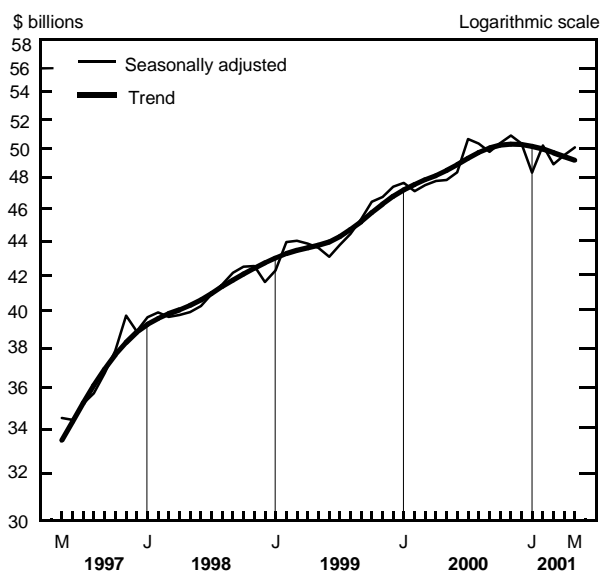
New orders rose 1.8% in May to \$45.1 billion. Excluding the aerospace product and parts industry, new orders increased 2.0%.

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

The May 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 analytical 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. □

Aerospace industry pushed up total orders



Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventories/shipments ratio
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	
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	42,868	-4.0	65,287	0.9	50,186	3.8	44,701	4.6	1.52
March 2001	43,678	1.9	65,290	0.0	48,893	-2.6	42,385	-5.2	1.49
April 2001	43,711	0.1	65,184	-0.2	49,523	1.3	44,342	4.6	1.49
May 2001	44,610	2.1	65,724	0.8	50,037	1.0	45,124	1.8	1.47

Manufacturing industries except motor vehicles, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
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	35,606	-4.0	61,808	0.9	48,426	3.9	37,418	6.3
March 2001	36,009	1.1	61,829	0.0	47,207	-2.5	34,790	-7.0
April 2001	35,748	-0.7	61,764	-0.1	47,859	1.4	36,400	4.6
May 2001	36,263	1.4	62,295	0.9	48,425	1.2	36,829	1.2

Private and public investment

2001 (revised intentions)

Substantial increases in proposed investment in the oil and gas extraction industry will likely drive total capital spending in 2001 to its highest level ever, according to revised intentions on public and private investment.

Businesses, governments and institutions are expected to invest a record \$146.7 billion on plant and equipment this year, up 6.7% from 2000. This latest survey shows a substantial upward revision of \$8.1 billion over original investment intentions released in February 2001.

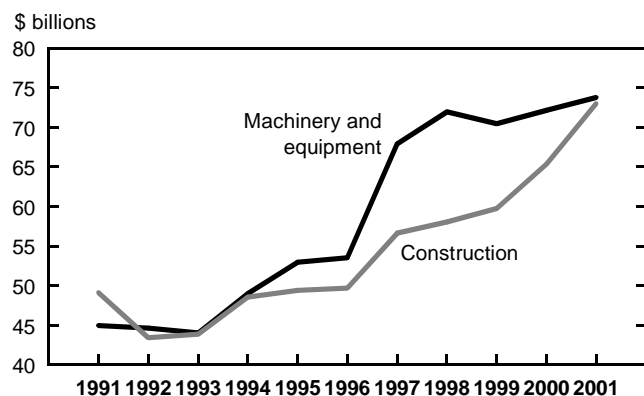
If proposed investment in housing were included, total investment in 2001 would reach \$189.6 billion, up 6.3% from 2000, a much stronger gain than the 1.7% increase anticipated in February. Housing investment alone is expected to rise 4.9% to \$42.9 billion as a result of increases in both major components, new housing and renovations.

Oil and gas extraction drives spending increase

Capital spending in the oil and gas extraction industries is now expected to reach \$25.4 billion in 2001, up 26.4% over 2000.

According to industry figures, the extraction industry is booming. From January to June 2001, the number of well completions was up 32% compared with the same period of 2000, and the number of metres drilled was up 23%. This activity continues to yield a stream of profits that have been rising for the last five quarters.

Construction investment approaches that of machinery and equipment



Note to readers

Revised investment intentions are based on a sample survey of 27,000 businesses, governments and institutions. The survey, which was conducted from April to June 2001, had an 83% response rate that covers 93% of the designed sample weight. The coefficient of variation, which measures the precision of the estimated data, is 0.4% at the Canada level. Data in this release are calendarized and expressed in current dollars.

All housing figures in this release reflect the recent changes to the renovation series as required by the System of National Accounts.

Capital spending in the energy sector on engineering construction has pushed investment intentions for non-residential construction up 11.7% to \$73.0 billion. Combined with a smaller increase in machinery and equipment investment of just 2.2%, this has allowed construction spending to nearly match that of machinery and equipment — the first time since 1994 that this has occurred.

Information and communications technology sector sees rise despite drop in manufacturing investment

Investment intentions in the information and communication technology sector are expected to increase 12.7% despite an anticipated decline in capital spending in the manufacturing component.

Corporations in the intangible services component, dominated by telecommunications, expect a strong 18.7% gain this year, largely owing to the amount of network infrastructure being put in place in Canada.

However, the sector's manufacturers anticipate a 10.9% decline in investment, mirrored by weaker global sales.

Governments expect higher capital spending

Government spending on capital is expected to grow 9.7% to \$16.2 billion.

This increase is largely the result of a proposed \$518.3-million rise in construction spending by municipalities, and a planned \$393.3-million increase in machinery and equipment spending by federal government departments.

Continuing slide in the manufacturing sector

Investment continues to falter in the manufacturing sector, following two consecutive quarters of declining capacity utilization rates and four straight quarters of decreasing operating profits.

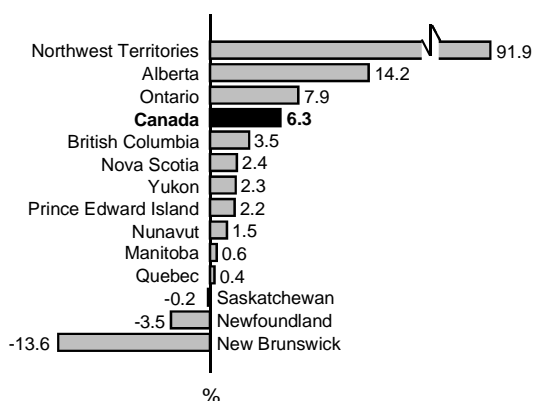
Capital spending is expected to fall 8.6% from 2000 levels down to \$19.4 billion.

The largest declines are anticipated from the primary metal component, (-\$1.3 billion), and from wood products, (-\$776.7 million). Both declines result from major projects winding down.

Most regions expect increases

Investment intentions are expected to increase in most provinces and territories in 2001.

Northwest Territories and Alberta expect to outpace spending increases elsewhere



Three regions are expected to outpace all other regions in investment growth. Capital spending is expected to nearly double (+91.9%) in the Northwest Territories, primarily due to mining and oil and gas extraction; in Alberta, it will rise 14.2% and in Ontario, 7.9%.

Three regions are expecting declines in capital spending, the largest of which is New Brunswick (-13.6%).

Available on CANSIM: tables 290005, 290007-290022, 290024, 320001 and 320002 and matrices 11500-11530 and 11532-11537.

Private and public investment in Canada, revised intentions 2001 (61-206-XIB, \$33) will be available soon. See How to order products.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilbert Paquette (1-800-571-0494; 613-951-9818; gilbert@statcan.ca) or Les Shinder (1-877-338-2368, 613-951-2030; shinder@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Capital spending intentions of private and public organizations

	Capital expenditures				2001 intentions to 2001 revised intentions	2000 preliminary actual to 2001 revised intentions
	Year ¹	Construction	Machinery and equipment	Total		
		\$ millions				
Canada	2000	106,183.1	72,117.2	178,300.3		
	2001	111,058.6	70,374.8	181,433.4		
	2001	115,833.7	73,734.9	189,568.6	4.5	6.3
Newfoundland	2000	2,111.0	1,105.7	3,216.7		
	2001	1,990.3	766.7	2,756.9		
	2001	2,145.3	958.7	3,104.0	12.6	-3.5
Prince Edward Island	2000	311.9	215.0	526.9		
	2001	313.5	182.3	495.8		
	2001	347.8	190.7	538.5	8.6	2.2
Nova Scotia	2000	2,536.0	1,669.2	4,205.1		
	2001	2,627.7	1,534.4	4,162.2		
	2001	2,731.5	1,575.8	4,307.3	3.5	2.4
New Brunswick	2000	2,241.7	1,304.0	3,545.7		
	2001	1,795.8	1,135.8	2,931.6		
	2001	1,853.9	1,209.5	3,063.4	4.5	-13.6
Quebec	2000	17,935.7	15,531.9	33,467.6		
	2001	18,913.9	14,578.7	33,492.6		
	2001	19,058.7	14,558.9	33,617.6	0.4	0.4
Ontario	2000	35,972.4	29,803.4	65,775.8		
	2001	38,833.3	30,478.8	69,312.1		
	2001	39,673.9	31,295.1	70,968.9	2.4	7.9
Manitoba	2000	2,608.3	2,398.4	5,006.7		
	2001	2,644.9	2,291.7	4,936.5		
	2001	2,699.1	2,336.4	5,035.5	2.0	0.6
Saskatchewan	2000	4,018.1	2,125.8	6,143.9		
	2001	3,982.8	2,077.8	6,060.5		
	2001	4,068.0	2,063.9	6,131.9	1.2	-0.2
Alberta	2000	23,993.0	10,689.6	34,682.6		
	2001	25,422.7	9,942.4	35,365.1		
	2001	27,871.1	11,742.8	39,614.5	12.0	14.2
British Columbia	2000	13,453.6	6,993.8	20,447.3		
	2001	13,083.4	7,014.4	20,097.8		
	2001	13,647.8	7,521.9	21,169.7	5.3	3.5
Yukon	2000	173.8	96.8	270.6		
	2001	211.6	93.8	305.4		
	2001	197.1	79.7	276.8	-9.4	2.3
Northwest Territories	2000	668.8	121.2	790.0		
	2001	1,105.8	166.3	1,272.1		
	2001	1,362.4	153.3	1,515.7	19.2	91.9
Nunavut	2000	158.7	62.5	221.3		
	2001	133.0	111.7	244.7		
	2001	176.4	48.2	224.6	-8.2	1.5

¹ Preliminary actual 2000, followed by intentions 2001, and then revised intentions 2001.

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Capital spending intentions of private and public organisations

	Preliminary actual 2000	2001 intentions	2001 revised intentions	2001 intentions to 2001 revised intentions	2000 preliminary actual to 2001 revised intentions
	\$ millions			% change	
Total	178,300.3	181,433.4	189,568.6	4.5	6.3
Plant and equipment	137,455.0	138,581.3	146,716.5	5.9	6.7
Housing	40,845.4	42,852.1	42,852.1	0.0	4.9
North American Industry Classification System sectors					
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	4,218.5	4,244.7	4,177.0	-1.6	-1.0
Mining and oil and gas extraction	23,992.6	25,831.1	29,455.5	14.0	22.8
Utilities	8,241.1	8,966.4	9,697.9	8.2	17.7
Construction	2,912.5	2,988.6	2,983.9	-0.2	2.5
Manufacturing	21,263.1	19,756.9	19,427.6	-1.7	-8.6
Wholesale trade	2,374.4	2,347.0	2,417.7	3.0	1.8
Retail trade	4,276.8	3,823.2	4,421.4	15.6	3.4
Transportation and warehousing	10,869.0	10,307.1	10,648.6	3.3	-2.0
Information and cultural industries	9,881.0	10,456.2	11,577.3	10.7	17.2
Finance and insurance	11,633.3	11,548.8	11,481.0	-0.6	-1.3
Real estate and rental and leasing	7,693.2	8,098.6	7,054.6	-12.9	-8.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	3,707.6	3,885.3	3,898.9	0.4	5.2
Management of companies and enterprises	169.0	165.1	138.6	-16.0	-18.0
Administrative support, waste management and remedial services	667.4	669.1	679.6	1.6	1.8
Educational services	3,847.4	4,044.6	4,620.9	14.2	20.1
Health care and social assistance	3,590.0	3,572.4	4,224.1	18.2	17.7
Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,183.9	885.3	1,342.5	51.6	13.4
Accommodation and food services	1,177.2	1,153.0	1,254.7	8.8	6.6
Other services (except public administration)	971.0	906.5	997.0	10.0	2.7
Public administration	14,785.9	14,931.6	16,217.7	8.6	9.7

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.



OTHER RELEASES

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

June 2001

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) was unchanged in June from May's level of 118.0 (1992=100). The composite index rose 0.4% compared with the June 2000 index.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the 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. ■

Shipments of rolled steel

May 2001

Rolled steel shipments totalled 1 303 953 metric tonnes in May, up 14.4% from 1 139 427 tonnes in April but down 2.3% from 1 335 264 tonnes in May 2000.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of May totalled 6 001 125 tonnes, down 7.5% from 6 488 984 tonnes in the same period of 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030010 and matrices 58 and 122 (series 22-25).

For general information or to order data, contact the Dissemination Officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel primary forms

May 2001

Steel primary forms production totalled 1 344 955 metric tonnes in May, down 6.2% from 1 433 542 tonnes in May 2000.

Year-to-date production to the end of May reached 6 171 747 tonnes, down 13.5% from 7 133 049 tonnes in the same period of 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030010 and matrix 58 (level 2, series 3).

For general information or to order data, contact the Dissemination Officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Oils and fats

May 2001

Production of all types of deodorized oils totalled 78 767 metric tonnes in May, up 1.6% from 77 562 tonnes in April. Year-to date production to the end of May was 433 440 tonnes, down 8.8% from 475 438 tonnes produced in the same period of 2000.

Domestic sales of deodorized margarine oil totalled 9 784 tonnes; deodorized shortening oil sales were 27 397 tonnes; and deodorized salad oil sales were 27 331 tonnes in May.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030012 and matrix 185.

The May 2001 issue of *Oils and fats*, Vol. 52, no. 5 (32-006-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the Dissemination Officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Arbeau (613-951-7380; david.arbeau@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Annual wholesale trade data

1998

Annual wholesale trade financial and commodity data for 1998 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 810005 and 810006.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Marketing and Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Oils and fats, May 2001, Vol. 52, no. 5
Catalogue number **32-006-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

Primary iron and steel, May 2001, Vol. 56, no. 5
Catalogue number **41-001-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

New motor vehicle sales, May 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

Order products by phone:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.


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
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