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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, March 2002** 3
Following the first back-to-back monthly increase in shipments in two years, manufacturers paused slightly in March; shipments slipped 0.7% to \$41.7 billion. Decreases in motor vehicle and chemical products manufacturing offset a surge in the petroleum and coal products industry. Meanwhile, inventories continued to decline for the tenth consecutive month.

OTHER RELEASES

Apartment Building Construction Price Index, first quarter 2002	8
Machinery and equipment price indexes, first quarter 2002	8
Steel primary forms, week ending May 11, 2002	9
Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, March 2002	9
Restaurants, caterers and taverns, March 2002	9
Production of poultry and eggs, 2001	10
Farm Input Price Index, 2001	10

(continued on page 2)

Perspectives on labour and income

May 2002 online edition

The May 2002 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, available today, features an article focussing on the occupations of seniors who continue to work beyond age 65. A number of demographic and other job characteristics are also examined, including age, sex, education, self-employment versus paid work, full-time versus part-time employment, and province or territory of residence.

For more information on "Seniors at work" contact Doreen Duchesne (613-951-6379; doreen.duchesne@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

Also in this issue is a "fact-sheet" on retirement, an update of trends related to the age of retirement.

The May 2002 online edition of *Perspectives on labour and income*, Vol. 3, no. 5 (75-001-XIE, \$5/\$48) is now available. For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



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OTHER RELEASES – concluded

Courts personnel and expenditures, 2000/01	10
Seniors at work, 1996	10

NEW PRODUCTS 12

MAJOR RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

March 2002

Following the first back-to-back monthly increase in shipments in two years, manufacturers paused slightly in March; shipments slipped 0.7% to \$41.7 billion. Decreases in motor vehicle and chemical products manufacturing partly offset a surge in the petroleum and coal products industry. Despite the decline in March, manufacturing shipments recovered sharply on a quarterly basis, up 2.7% in the first quarter compared with the fourth quarter of 2001. This followed four consecutive quarterly declines. After levelling off in the first half of 2001, the trend in shipments has shown positive signs of recovery in recent months.

Nearly 100,000 new manufacturing jobs were created in the first three months of 2002. According to the latest Labour Force Survey, manufacturers added 13,400 to their payrolls in March, in addition to the 86,000 new jobs created in January and February. Following the positive quarter in job creation, the latest estimates indicated a loss of 19,000 manufacturing positions in April.

Consumer spending remained flat in February following a four-month shopping spree, according to the recent release of retail trade statistics. Since last October, new motor vehicle sales were reinforced by automobile manufacturers' incentive packages. Despite an all-time high in the first quarter of 2002, new motor vehicle sales have also levelled off in recent months. The motor vehicle industry was the primary contributor to March's overall shipment decline. Following a 9.5% surge in February, shipments of motor vehicles fell back 5.2% in March to \$5.2 billion. Excluding the impact of the motor vehicle, parts and accessories industries, total shipments edged up 0.1%. Chemical products (-3.1%) and fabricated metal products (-3.6%) also reported lower shipments.

Partly offsetting March's decline, shipments of petroleum and coal products soared 14.5%, boosted by a 7.3% rise in prices during the month.

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 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 are those 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. 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 by province and territory

	Feb. 2002	Mar. 2002	Feb. to Mar. 2002
Seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change
Newfoundland and Labrador	189	187	-1.1
Prince Edward Island	106	101	-4.1
Nova Scotia	715	675	-5.5
New Brunswick	897	1,004	12.0
Quebec	10,024	9,903	-1.2
Ontario	22,519	22,269	-1.1
Manitoba	948	923	-2.6
Saskatchewan	582	567	-2.5
Alberta	3,213	3,210	-0.1
British Columbia	2,795	2,854	2.1
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	5	4	-25.0

March's decrease was extensive; 14 of 21 industries, representing 70% of total shipments, reported lower values. As well, eight provinces and the territories were down in March. Only New Brunswick and British Columbia reported higher shipments.

Manufacturing inventories fell 0.2% to \$62.1 billion in March, the tenth consecutive decline. April's Quarterly Business Conditions Survey reported that manufacturers were optimistic for the first time since the third quarter of 2000. Producers indicated that inventories were under control, orders were picking up and production should improve. In addition, after months of struggling with high inventory levels, manufacturers indicated much less concern with finished product

inventories in early April. Finished product inventories increased 0.9% to \$19.6 billion in March, the highest level in five months.

For the second straight month, manufacturers reported higher unfilled orders. Orders climbed 1.4% to \$47.6 billion in March, due to increases in the computer and primary metal industries. New orders fell 0.3%, following strong gains in January (+4.0%) and February (+2.7%).

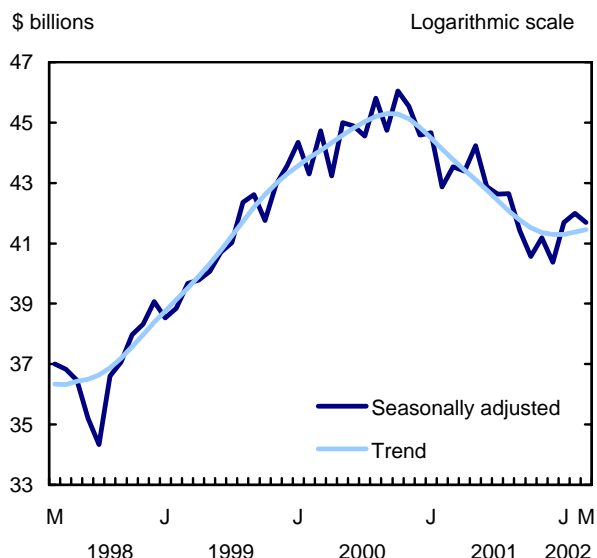
Motor vehicle shipments fall back in March, following a strong February

Motor vehicle shipments decreased 5.2% to \$5.2 billion in March. Shipments surged 9.5% to \$5.5 billion in February, as several plants returned to more normal production levels following slowdowns and temporary shutdowns in December and January. As noted in the most recent release, sales of new motor vehicles reached an all-time high in the first quarter, despite declines in both March (-3.8%) and February (-0.6%). Stimulated by manufacturers' incentive packages and low interest rates, consumers purchased record numbers of new motor vehicles in recent months. There are now reports that manufacturers may be considering easing back on the incentive packages in the near future.

The chemical products industry also reported lower shipments in March. Shipments were \$2.9 billion, down 3.1% from February. Manufacturers of fabricated metal products reported a 3.6% drop in shipments to \$2.3 billion, following sharp increases in January and February.

Partly offsetting the overall decrease in shipments, shipments in the petroleum and coal products industry advanced 14.5% to \$2.4 billion, as prices soared 7.3% in March. Prices have been on an upward swing throughout 2002 as markets faced uncertainty due to the developing crisis in the Middle East and recent production cuts in crude oil by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The beverage and tobacco products industry also reported strong shipments (+7.1%) in March.

March shipments fall back slightly, following a strong start to 2002



Inventory correction continues as positive news emerges

The inventory correction cycle entered its tenth straight month in March as manufacturers cut inventories by a further 0.2% to \$62.1 billion. March's decrease was divided between goods-in-process (-1.0%) and raw material (-0.5%) inventories. Offsetting the decline, finished-product inventories recorded the largest one-month gain since June 2001, rising by 0.9%.

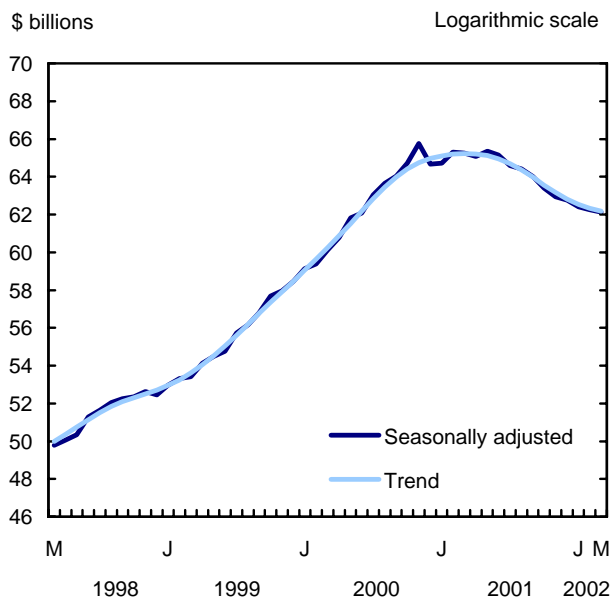
The rise in finished product inventories came amidst encouraging signs that the inventory correction may be starting to bottom out, as manufacturers contemplate rebuilding their stocks of goods. According to April's Quarterly Business Conditions Survey, manufacturers were much more upbeat about their levels of finished-product inventories, with 82% indicating that their finished-product inventory was about right, up from 66% in January. Moreover, only 14% indicated that their finished-product levels were too high in April, down from 30% in January. Nevertheless, March's overall inventories were still at their lowest level since June 2000 and were off 5.5% since peaking at \$65.8 billion in November 2000. The trend for inventories, which has been declining since April 2001, continued downward in March, albeit at a more moderate pace.

For the second straight month, the computer and electronics industry was the main contributor to the

inventory decline, as high-tech manufacturers cut inventories a further 4.6% to \$4.9 billion. This marked the fourth consecutive monthly decline for this industry, where inventories have been generally falling since their peak in November 2000. Despite the recent uptick in shipments and unfilled orders, computer and electronic product manufacturers have continued to scale back their inventory holdings as uncertainty continues to cloud the longer term outlook of the high-tech sector. The drop in inventories, coupled with a mild upturn in shipments, contributed to a sizeable decline in the computer and electronic product industry's inventory-to-shipment ratio in March (2.73), the lowest level since May 2001. The ratio is a measure of how long it would take to deplete inventories at the current pace of sales.

Another major contributor to March's inventory decline was the motor vehicle industry; manufacturing inventories fell 3.7% to \$1.7 billion.

Inventories fall for the tenth month in a row



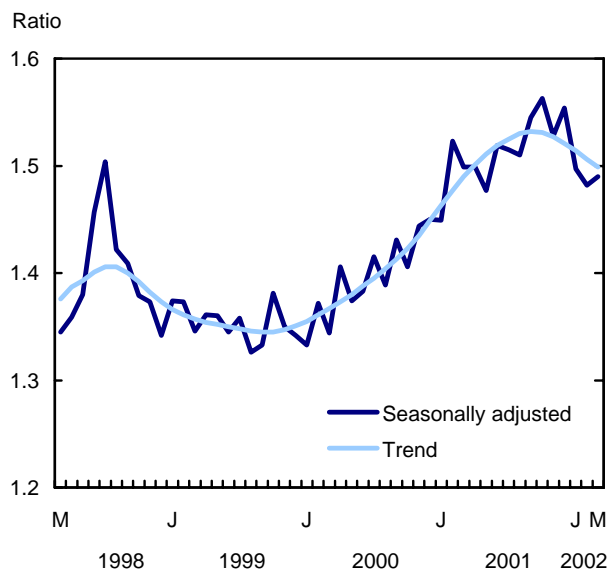
Partially offsetting this month's decrease were higher inventory levels in the chemical products (+1.5%) and petroleum and coal products (+3.9%) industries. The increase in petroleum and coal products was the fourth consecutive monthly rise and comes after inventories hit a 25-month low in November 2001.

With March shipments decreasing faster than inventories, the inventory-to-shipment ratio edged up for the first time in three months to 1.49, but remained well below the nine-year high of 1.56 set in October 2001.

The trend of the inventory-to-shipment ratio continued to show signs of levelling off in March.

March also saw a slight rise in the finished-products inventory-to-shipment ratio (0.47). The ratio, which had been rising since mid-2000, has held fairly steady since last autumn as manufacturers succeeded in lowering their finished product inventories.

The inventory-to-shipment ratio edges up for the first time in three months



Unfilled orders edge forward for second consecutive month

Manufacturers reported an increase in unfilled orders for the second consecutive month, as improved confidence among consumers and businesses contributed to a 1.4% rise in orders to \$47.6 billion. Despite February's rise, unfilled orders remained well off their apex of \$50.9 billion reached in November 2000.

The computer and electronic products and primary metal industries were the main contributors to the increase in March. Following an almost steady stream of decreases in 2001, computer and electronic product orders rose 3.5% to \$3.7 billion, up for the second consecutive month. However, the level remains well below their November 2000 peak (\$5.3 billion). Primary metal manufacturers reported orders of \$1.8 billion, a 7.2% jump and the fourth straight monthly gain for the industry. For the first time in five months, unfilled orders in the aerospace product and parts industry were up 0.5% to \$19.4 billion, an early sign of improvement following the recent period of uncertainty, starting last autumn.

New orders slipped 0.3% to \$42.3 billion in March, following increases in January (+4.0%) and February (+2.7%). New orders had been generally declining since late 2000, but picked up at the start of the new year.

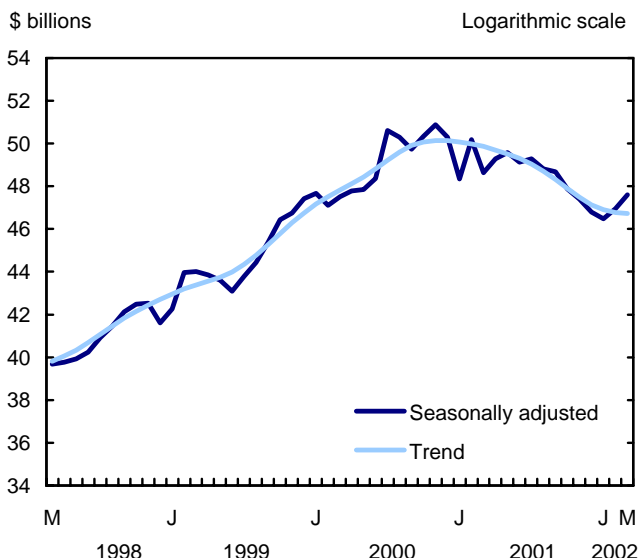
Available on CANSIM: tables 304-0014 and 304-0015.

The March 2002 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). 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.

Unfilled orders advance for the second consecutive month



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 2001	43,535	1.6	65,239	-0.1	48,634	-3.1	41,983	-6.1	1.50
April 2001	43,397	-0.3	65,071	-0.3	49,277	1.3	44,040	4.9	1.50
May 2001	44,231	1.9	65,350	0.4	49,570	0.6	44,524	1.1	1.48
June 2001	42,886	-3.0	65,146	-0.3	49,121	-0.9	42,437	-4.7	1.52
July 2001	42,633	-0.6	64,585	-0.9	49,292	0.3	42,804	0.9	1.51
August 2001	42,651	0.0	64,404	-0.3	48,806	-1.0	42,165	-1.5	1.51
September 2001	41,429	-2.9	63,998	-0.6	48,694	-0.2	41,317	-2.0	1.54
October 2001	40,570	-2.1	63,392	-0.9	47,880	-1.7	39,756	-3.8	1.56
November 2001	41,190	1.5	62,954	-0.7	47,401	-1.0	40,712	2.4	1.53
December 2001	40,380	-2.0	62,767	-0.3	46,789	-1.3	39,768	-2.3	1.55
January 2002	41,687	3.2	62,405	-0.6	46,475	-0.7	41,372	4.0	1.50
February 2002	41,993	0.7	62,246	-0.3	46,952	1.0	42,471	2.7	1.48
March 2002	41,697	-0.7	62,122	-0.2	47,597	1.4	42,341	-0.3	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
March 2001	35,882	0.8	61,782	-0.0	46,949	-3.1	34,405	-8.1
April 2001	35,520	-1.0	61,652	-0.2	47,610	1.4	36,182	5.2
May 2001	35,891	1.0	61,919	0.4	47,952	0.7	36,232	0.1
June 2001	34,994	-2.5	61,765	-0.2	47,544	-0.8	34,587	-4.5
July 2001	34,744	-0.7	61,172	-1.0	47,738	0.4	34,938	1.0
August 2001	35,009	0.8	61,022	-0.2	47,211	-1.1	34,481	-1.3
September 2001	33,758	-3.6	60,729	-0.5	47,150	-0.1	33,697	-2.3
October 2001	33,312	-1.3	60,111	-1.0	46,427	-1.5	32,589	-3.3
November 2001	33,555	0.7	59,667	-0.7	45,946	-1.0	33,074	1.5
December 2001	32,808	-2.2	59,489	-0.3	45,273	-1.5	32,135	-2.8
January 2002	34,067	3.8	58,986	-0.8	44,876	-0.9	33,669	4.8
February 2002	33,868	-0.6	58,838	-0.3	45,366	1.1	34,359	2.0
March 2002	33,917	0.1	58,760	-0.1	45,968	1.3	34,519	0.5



OTHER RELEASES

Apartment Building Construction Price Index

First quarter 2002

The Composite Price Index for apartment building construction (1997=100) was 112.6 in the first quarter, up 0.7% over the fourth quarter of 2001 and up 2.2% compared with the first quarter of 2001.

The highest quarterly change was recorded in Ottawa (+1.1%), followed by Toronto (+1.0%), Halifax, Calgary and Edmonton (all three at +0.7%), Vancouver (+0.5%) and Montréal (+0.4%).

Montréal saw the highest year-over-year gain compared with the first quarter of 2001 (+3.1%), followed by Halifax, Toronto, Calgary, and Edmonton (all four at +2.2%), Ottawa (+2.1%) and Vancouver (+1.5%).

Apartment building construction price indexes (1997=100)

	First quarter 2002	First quarter 2001 to first quarter 2002 % change	Fourth quarter 2001 to first quarter 2002 % change
Composite	112.6	2.2	0.7
Halifax	109.0	2.2	0.7
Montréal	113.4	3.1	0.4
Ottawa	116.2	2.1	1.1
Toronto	118.4	2.2	1.0
Calgary	115.7	2.2	0.7
Edmonton	114.1	2.2	0.7
Vancouver	107.8	1.5	0.5

Note: The apartment building construction price indexes provide an indication of new construction cost changes in seven major urban areas across Canada (Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver). Besides each of the urban areas' indexes and the composite index, there are further breakdowns of cost changes by trade groups within the building (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical). These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade-group contractors who report on the categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profits) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0040.

The first quarter 2002 issue of *Capital expenditure price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in June. See *How to order products*.

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

Machinery and equipment price indexes

First quarter 2002

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index (1986=100) was 140.2 in the first quarter, up 1.0% from the fourth quarter of 2001. The domestic component rose 0.6%, and the imported component advanced 1.4%. Compared with the first quarter of 2001, the overall index advanced 2.7%; the domestic and imported components increased by 1.6% and 3.7% respectively.

Compared with the fourth quarter of 2001, all industry groups advanced but only three contributed substantially to the rise in the index: manufacturing (+1.0%), agriculture (+1.7%) and transport (+0.9%). Within the manufacturing sector, paper and allied products (+1.3%), chemicals (+0.9%), primary metals (+1.1%), and transportation equipment (+1.3%) led the way.

Compared with the first quarter of 2001, the increase was led by manufacturing (+2.7%), transport (+2.8%) and agriculture (+3.8%). The largest portion of the growth in manufacturing was due to increases in paper and allied products (+3.8%), primary metals (+4.7%) and transportation equipment (+3.6%). The rise in transport was due to an advance in electricity (+2.3%) and air transport (+5.2%).

In the first quarter, most commodities showed an increase. Specialized industrial equipment (+1.0%), other agricultural machinery (+2.7%) except farm tractors, electric industrial equipment (+1.9%), trucks (+0.5%) and farm tractors (+1.3%) contributed substantially. In the case of specialized industrial equipment, the domestic component of commercial services (+3.3%), non-metallic mineral products (+2.7%), furniture (+2.1%) and electric power (+2.0%) posted the strongest growth. The imported specialized industrial equipment for furniture rose 2.1%.

The Canadian dollar was worth an average of 62.9 cents US in the first quarter, down 1.2% from the fourth quarter and down 3.7% from the first quarter of 2001.

Machinery and Equipment Price Index (1986=100)

	Relative importance	First quarter 2002 ^P	Fourth quarter 2001 to first quarter 2002 % change	First quarter 2001 to first quarter 2002
Machinery and Equipment Price Index	100.0	140.2	1.0	2.7
Agriculture	11.0	170.8	1.7	3.8
Forestry	1.5	147.4	0.3	1.1
Fishing	0.6	130.2	0.6	3.3
Mines, quarries and oil wells	6.0	143.3	1.0	2.2
Manufacturing	29.9	149.2	1.0	2.7
Construction	3.5	149.3	1.1	3.5
Transportation, communication, storage and utilities	25.9	131.0	0.9	2.8
Trade	4.0	124.2	0.6	1.9
Finance, insurance and real estate	1.8	112.3	0.7	1.5
Community, business and personal services	11.1	113.9	0.5	1.6
Public administration	4.7	136.6	0.9	3.0

^P Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0013, 327-0014 and 327-0016.

The first quarter 2002 issue of *Capital expenditure price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in June. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Louise Chaîné (613-951-0785; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending May 11, 2002 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending May 11, totalled 308 085 metric tonnes, up 12.1% from 274 719 tonnes a week earlier and up 3.0% from 299 015 tonnes in the same week of 2001. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 5 824 503 tonnes, up 11.2% from 5 238 873 for the same period of 2001.

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 Misbah

Subhani (613-951-4924; misbah.subhani@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Pulpwood and wood residue statistics March 2002

Pulpwood receipts in March totalled 2 785 941 cubic metres, down 14.0% from 3 240 842 cubic metres in March 2001. Wood residue receipts fell 9.0%, from 7 693 755 cubic metres in March 2001 to 7 002 399 cubic metres in March 2002. Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue totalled 9 185 826 cubic metres, down 9.0% from 10 091 717 cubic metres in March 2001.

The closing inventory of pulpwood and wood residue declined 11.3% to 14 290 145 cubic metres, down from 16 114 210 cubic metres in March 2001. Year-to-date consumption of pulpwood and wood residue to the end of March was 27 836 912 cubic metres, down 8.1% from 30 286 111 cubic metres in the same period of 2001. Figures for 2001 have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0008.

The March 2002 issue of *Pulpwood and wood residue statistics*, Vol. 45, no. 3 (25-001-XIB, \$6/\$55) 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 Sara Breen (613-951-3521; sara.breen@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Restaurants, caterers and taverns March 2002

Total receipts of restaurants, caterers and taverns in March were an estimated \$2.67 billion, down 0.3% from the March 2001 estimate.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0001.

The March 2002 issue of *Restaurant, caterer and tavern statistics* (63-011-XIE, \$6/\$55) 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 Bill Birbeck (613-951-3506), Services Industries Division. ■

Production of poultry and eggs

2001

Production and consumption data for poultry meat (chicken, stewing hens and turkey) and eggs for the year 2001 are now available.

Farmers produced 1 099 000 metric tonnes of poultry meat in 2001, up 4.0% from 2000 due to a 5.7% increase in chicken production. At the same time, turkey production dropped to 149 000 tonnes. Egg production climbed 3.7% to 570 million dozen in 2001.

Canadians extended a long-term upward trend in 2001, consuming record amounts of chicken meat. Chicken consumption rose to 30.3 kilograms per person, up 4.5% from 2000. The popularity of easy-to-prepare chicken products among time-conscious consumers, along with competitive prices, contributed to demand.

Chicken may soon surpass beef as the meat of choice for Canadians. In 2001, beef consumption declined to 30.7 kilograms per person.

Each Canadian ate an average of 16 dozen eggs in 2001, continuing a trend that began in 1996. Egg consumption rose 1.9% from 2000.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0017 to 003-0020.

The 2001 issue of *Production of poultry and eggs* (23-202-XIB, \$29) 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 Conrad Ogrodnik (613-951-2860; conrad.ogrodnik@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Farm Input Price Index

2001 (preliminary)

Farm Input Price Index preliminary data (1992=100) are now available for 2001.

Available on CANSIM: table 328-0014.

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

Courts personnel and expenditures

2000/01

Governments spent \$1,039 million (current dollars), or just over \$34 for every person in Canada, operating the courts system in the 2000/01 fiscal year.

This was a 9% increase since the data were last collected in 1998/99. However, after adjusting for inflation, the increase was 4% during the two-year period.

A total of 11,900 people were employed in provincial, territorial and federal courts in 2000/01, a number which has remained stable since 1998/99. Of this total, 9,890 (83%) were court staff and 2,011 (17%) were judges.

Just over half of all judges, or 1,027, were appointed by the federal government. About 41% worked in superior courts, 6% in appeal courts and 3% in federal courts.

Employee salaries and benefits accounted for \$829 million or 80% of the total expenditures. Salaries and benefits paid to the judiciary totalled \$382 million. The judiciary, although accounting for only 17% of total personnel, received 46% of total salaries and benefits.

Note: *Courts expenditures and personnel*, provides personnel and expenditure information on the judicial system for the 2000/01 fiscal year, as well as some comparisons between current results and findings from the previous surveys of 1998/99 and 1996/97. This report also includes data from the provincial and territorial courts, and the federal courts, which include the Supreme Court of Canada, the Federal Court of Canada, the Tax Court of Canada, and the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs. The source of this information is the Courts Personnel and Expenditures Survey, administered biennially by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

The report *Courts expenditures and personnel*, (85-403-XIE, \$22) 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 Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231 or 951-9023). ■

Seniors at work

1996

One out of every 13 seniors aged 65 and over was still at work according to the 1996 Census, a ratio that is likely

to increase as the 9.8 million baby boomers in Canada get closer to retirement age.

The article "Seniors at work", available today in the online version of *Perspectives on labour and income*, provides a statistical profile of seniors who were employed at the time of the 1996 Census. Similar information from the 2001 Census will be released on February 11, 2003.

An estimated 255,200 seniors aged 65 and over were employed in 1996, and an additional 15,700 reported being unemployed, for a total labour force of 271,000.

The majority (68%) of people employed in this age group were men, even though they accounted for only 43% of the population aged 65 and over. As the baby boom generation ages, it is likely that the participation rate of older women in the labour force will move closer to that of their male counterparts.

In 1996, seniors aged 65 to 69 accounted for 59% of employed seniors. Those aged 70 to 74 made up an additional 25%. Nearly 40,000 individuals aged 75 and over reported being employed, 16% of the total.

Working seniors were almost four times more likely to be self-employed than younger workers. In 1996, 46% of employed people 65 and over were self-employed, compared with only 13% of workers aged 15 to 64. Most of these seniors (57%) were working owners of unincorporated businesses without paid help.

Highly educated Canadians are much more likely than those with less schooling to continue

working beyond the expected age of retirement. In 1996, 1 in 5 seniors with a university degree was employed, compared with less than 1 in 20 seniors with an elementary school education only.

Twenty occupations accounted for half of total employment among senior workers. Farmers and farm managers alone made up 18% of this total, with 45,200 employed seniors in 1996.

The second most popular type of job among seniors was a sales occupation of some sort. The third most common occupation group was janitors, caretakers, and building superintendents.

Older workers were more common on the Prairies, particularly in Saskatchewan, where they represented 5% of total employment.

According to Statistics Canada's demographic projections, the number of seniors aged 65 to 74 is expected to rise from 2,146,900 in 2001 to an estimated 2,231,400 in 2006, an increase of 84,500.

The article "Seniors at work" is now available in the May 2002 online issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, Vol. 3, no. 5 (75-001-XIE, \$5/\$48). See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Doreen Duchesne (613-951-6379; doreen.duchesne@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

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Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, tom.vradenburg@statcan.ca)

Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard (613-951-1088), madeleine.simard@statcan.ca

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