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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

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MAJOR RELEASES

Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries
April 2002

Encouraging signs continued to emerge from the manufacturing sector in April. Producers indicated that inventories were under control, orders were picking up and it was time to crank up production. In addition, after months of struggling with high inventory levels, manufacturers indicated much less concern with finished product inventory levels in the second quarter, according to the April Quarterly Business Conditions Survey.

The voluntary survey, to which almost 4,000 responded, showed 8 out of 10 manufacturers indicated finished product inventory levels were about right.

One-quarter of manufacturers expected to increase output during the next three months, and 87% reported their work force would remain the same or increase. Producers also indicated they were more satisfied with both current levels of new orders and unfilled orders. The number reporting lower-than-normal orders received improved a further 20 percentage points in April to 16%.

Manufacturers less concerned about finished product inventory

In April, 82% of manufacturers indicated that the current level of finished product inventory was about right, up from 66% in January.

According to the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing for February, manufacturers continued to draw down finished product inventories closing the month at $19.2 billion — down from a high of $20.2 billion in June 2001.

In the April Business Conditions Survey, the balance of opinion concerning the current level of finished product inventory improved 16 points to -10. Manufacturers in the transportation equipment and primary metals industries were mostly responsible for this improvement.

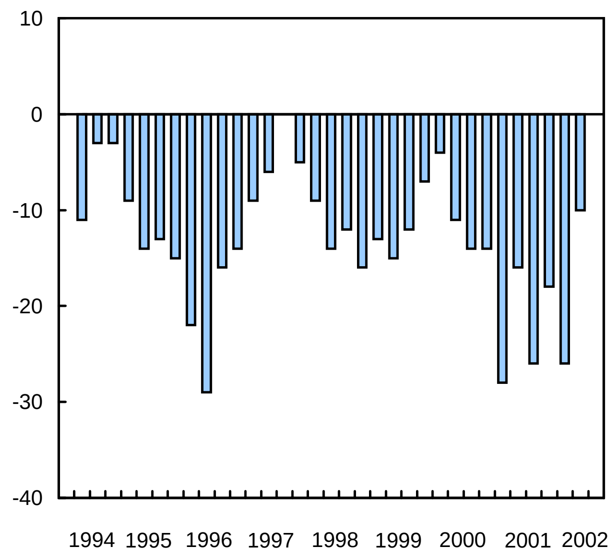
The balance of opinion is determined by subtracting the proportion of manufacturers that stated their finished product inventory was too high from the proportion whose finished product inventory was too low.

Note to readers

The Business Conditions Survey is conducted in January, April, July and October; most of the responses are recorded in the first two weeks of these months. Results are based on replies from about 4,000 manufacturers and are weighted by a manufacturer's shipments or employment. Consequently, larger manufacturers have a correspondingly larger impact on the results than smaller manufacturers.

Data in this release are seasonally adjusted, except for the data on production difficulties.

Balance of opinion for current level of finished-product inventory on hand



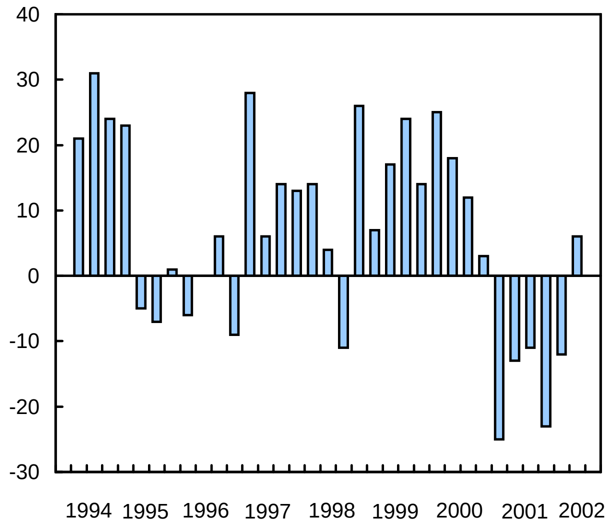
One-quarter of manufacturers expect to increase production

Some 25% of manufacturers expected to increase production in the second quarter, up from 18% in January. The proportion expecting to reduce production in the next three months fell from 30% in January to 19% in April.

The balance of opinion for production prospects rose 18 points from January to +6. This is the first positive production balance since October 2000 (+3).

Producers in the transportation equipment, primary metals and wood product industries were feeling more upbeat about production prospects in the second quarter.

Balance of opinion for expected volume of production next three months versus last three months



Manufacturers indicate orders are starting to roll in

In April, 27% of manufacturers reported that orders received were rising, up 13 points compared with January and more than five times higher than in October 2001.

The proportion indicating new orders were decreasing stood at 16%, a full 20-point improvement over January. Manufacturers in the transportation equipment, primary metals and wood product industries were the major contributors to this more positive level.

The balance of opinion on the current level of orders received increased 33 points to +11 — the first positive balance registered since July 2000 (+5). This is most favorable when compared with the balances posted in July (-34) and October (-38) 2001.

Manufacturers less concerned with backlog of unfilled orders

The proportion of manufacturers indicating the current level of unfilled orders was higher than normal increased 7 points to 13% in April. Some 19% indicated the level was lower than normal, a major improvement from October 2001 when this proportion stood at 46%.

The -6 balance of opinion on unfilled orders improved when compared with the balances of -23 posted in January 2002 and -42 in October 2001. Producers in primary metals and wood product industries were the major contributors to the improved balance.

According to the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, unfilled orders in February posted the first increase in seven months, up 0.5% to $46.7 billion.

Employment prospects in manufacturing more stable

Some 87% of manufacturers indicated that their employment level would change little or increase in the coming three months.

According to the Labour Force Survey, employment in manufacturing increased by almost 100,000 in the first three months of 2002, almost recouping the 111,000 jobs lost in all of 2001.

The April balance of opinion for employment prospects for the next three months improved 7 points to -2. Improvements in the balance were seen in the wood product, fabricated metals and furniture industries. Manufacturers in the transportation equipment industries indicated that employment levels would change little from the first to the second quarter.

Fewer manufacturers report production impediments

About 86% of manufacturers reported little in the way of production impediments in April, up 1% from January. The proportion reporting a shortage of skilled labour increased 2 points to 6%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 302-0001 to 302-0003.

Only unadjusted data are available in these CANSIM tables.

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 Claude Robillard (613-951-3507; *robilcg@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. □

Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries

	April 2001	July 2001	October 2001	January 2002	April 2002
	Seasonally adjusted				
Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:					
About the same	59	55	57	52	56
Higher	14	17	10	18	25
Lower	27	28	33	30	19
Balance	-13	-11	-23	-12	6
Orders received are:					
About the same	54	52	52	50	57
Rising	12	7	5	14	27
Declining	34	41	43	36	16
Balance	-22	-34	-38	-22	11
Present backlog of unfilled orders is:					
About normal	55	54	50	65	68
Higher than normal	6	6	4	6	13
Lower than normal	39	40	46	29	19
Balance	-33	-34	-42	-23	-6
Finished product inventory on hand is:					
About right	74	70	78	66	82
Too low	5	2	2	4	4
Too high[1]	21	28	20	30	14
Balance	-16	-26	-18	-26	-10
Employment during the next three months will:					
Change little	72	72	67	71	76
Increase	9	11	9	10	11
Decrease	19	17	24	19	13
Balance	-10	-6	-15	-9	-2
	Unadjusted				
Sources of production difficulties:					
Working capital shortage	3	2	3	3	2
Skilled labour shortage	8	7	7	4	6
Unskilled labour shortage	2	3	2	1	1
Raw material shortage	2	2	2	2	2
Other difficulties	5	6	6	5	3
No difficulties	82	80	80	85	86

1 *No evident seasonality.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms

Week ending April 27, 2002 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending April 27 totalled 314 749 metric tonnes, down 2.8% from 323 803 tonnes a week earlier and up 18.2% from 266 355 tonnes in the same week of 2001. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 5 241 698 tonnes, a 12.4% increase compared with 4 664 523 for the same period in 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. ■

Coal and coke statistics

February 2002

Reduced demand in export markets led to a drop in coal production in February. Coal production totalled 5 136 kilotonnes, down 5.1% from February 2001. Production in British Columbia (directed mainly to export markets) fell 15.2% from February 2001 to 1 775 kilotonnes. Year-to-date production to the end of February stood at 10 661 kilotonnes, down 6.7% from the same period of 2001.

Exports in February fell to 2 513 kilotonnes, down 18.8% from February 2001. Exports decreased to Europe and the rest of Asia and Africa while exports to Japan (the largest consumer of Canadian coal) rose 4.9% to 981 kilotonnes in February. Year-to-date exports totalled 4 235 kilotonnes, down 23.3% from the same period in 2001.

Coke production in February decreased to 235 kilotonnes, down 1.6% from February 2001.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0016 and 303-0017.

The February 2002 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002-XIB, $9/$85) will be available in May. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Melanie Murray (613-951-3560; *melanie.murray@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Air charter statistics

First quarter 2001

Over 1.5 million passengers travelled on international air charter flights in the first quarter of 2001, up 2.7% from the first quarter of 2000.

The publication *Aviation service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, $8/$82) will be available soon. A print-on-demand service is also available at a different price. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; *davikat@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Electric power generation, transmission and distribution

2000

Electric power producers earned operating revenues of $46.0 billion in 2000, up 17.9% from 1999. The industry registered a net income of $4.0 billion in 2000, up 18.4% from 1999. Higher revenues from the sale of electricity to the United States were the main reason for this increase. Manitoba utilities were the most profitable, with net income representing 23.0% of operating revenues. Net electricity generation in Canada increased 4.6% in 2000 to 586 terawatt hours.

The 2000 issue of *Electric power generation, transmission and distribution* (57-202-XIB, $23) is now available. See *How to order products*.

To order data, or for general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Melanie Murray (613-951-3560, *melanie.murray@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Electric power statistics, February 2002, Vol. 70, no. 2
Catalogue number 57-001-XIB ($9/$85).

Electric power generation, transmission and distribution, 2000
Catalogue number 57-202-XIB ($23).

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 -XCB are electronic versions on compact disc.

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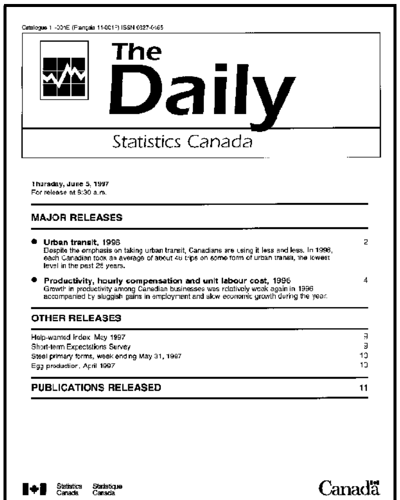
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Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **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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