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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

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MAJOR RELEASES

Quarterly Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries

July 2002

The manufacturing sector reported in early July a positive economic outlook for the third quarter. Producers indicated that inventories were under control, orders were still coming in and production should continue at about the same pace as in the second quarter.

After months of struggling with high levels of finished product inventories, manufacturers continued to indicate less concern, according to the Quarterly Business Conditions Survey taken in early July.

Almost 4,000 manufacturers responded to the voluntary survey, of which eight out of ten indicated that finished product inventory levels were about right.

Three quarters of manufacturers expected to maintain the same production levels for the next three months, and 86% reported their workforce would remain the same or increase. The vast majority of manufacturers indicated they were still satisfied with both current levels of new orders and unfilled orders.

Note to users

The business conditions survey is conducted in January, April, July and October; the majority of 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 larger impact on the results than smaller manufacturers.

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

Manufacturers less concerned about finished product inventory

About 82% of manufacturers indicated that the current level of finished product inventory was about right in July. This percentage was unchanged from April, but substantially higher than the 70% in July 2001.

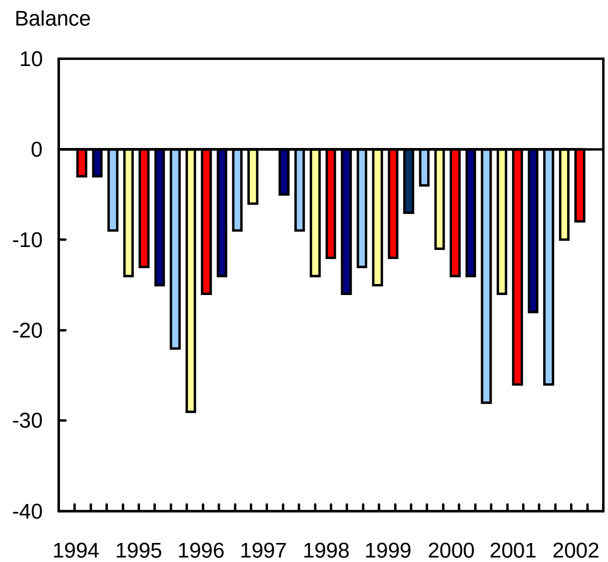
Only 13% of companies felt that their inventories were too high, less than half the proportion of 28% in July 2001.

According to the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing for May manufacturers continued to draw down finished product inventories, closing the month at $19.3 billion, down from a high of $20.2 billion posted in June 2001.

In the July Business Conditions Survey, the balance of opinion concerning the current level of finished product inventory improved 2 points to -8. Manufacturers in the paper and allied products and primary metals industries were mostly responsible for this improvement.

The balance of opinion was 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.

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

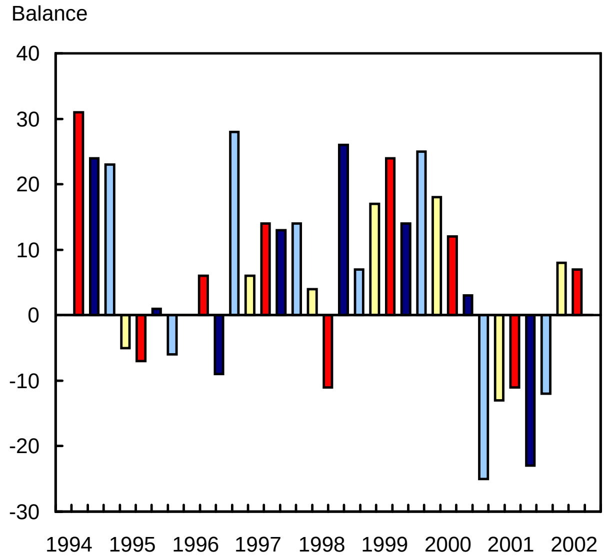


Production prospects remain positive

In July, 91% of manufacturers indicated that the expected level of production for the coming three months would change little or increase. Only 9% of firms expected to reduce production in the next three months, down substantially from 17% in April and one-third the level of 28% in July 2001.

The balance of opinion for production prospects stands at +7, down 1 point from April. Producers in the transportation equipment, paper and allied products, refined petroleum and coal and chemical product industries were the major contributors to the positive balance of opinion in July.

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



Manufacturers still satisfied with level of orders received

Almost two thirds (64%) of manufacturers indicated in July that the number of orders received was about the same as in the second quarter. Some 20% of manufacturers reported that orders received were rising, while 16% indicated declining orders. Although the balance of opinion (+4) was 6 points lower than in April, it was still stronger than the -34 posted in the July 2001 survey.

Backlog of unfilled orders is less of a concern

The proportion of manufacturers indicating that the current level of unfilled orders was higher than normal or about right stood at 86% in July. Some 14% indicated the level was lower than normal, a marked improvement from the July 2001 survey, when this proportion stood at 40%.

With the same proportion of manufacturers (14%) indicating both increasing and decreasing unfilled order levels, the balance of opinion evened out at zero, still a 4 point improvement from the April survey. Producers in primary metals, paper and allied product and transportation equipment industries were the major contributors to the improved balance.

According to the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, unfilled orders in May stood at $47.7 billion, after rising for four straight months.

Employment prospects in manufacturing remains stable

Some 86% of manufacturers indicated that their employment level would change little or increase in the coming three months.

According to the June Labour Force Survey, employment in manufacturing rose 113,000 since the beginning of 2002, returning employment in this sector to the peak reached in December 2000.

With 11% expecting to increase employment and 14% expecting to decrease the July balance of opinion for employment prospects for the coming three months stood at -3, down 1 point from April.

More manufacturers report production impediments

About 84% of manufacturers reported little in the way of production impediments in July, down 3 points from the April survey. The proportion reporting a shortage of skilled labour increased one point to 6%. A shortage of unskilled labour was reported by 2% of manufacturers.

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

Only unadjusted data are available in these CANSIM tables.

For general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; Fax: 613-951-9499; *manufact@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of the release, contact Claude Robillard (613-951-3507; *robilcg@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. □

Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries

	July 2001	October 2001	January 2002	April 2002	July 2002
	Seasonally adjusted				
Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:					
About the same (%)	55	57	52	58	75
Higher (%)	17	10	18	25	16
Lower (%)	28	33	30	17	9
Balance	-11	-23	-12	8	7
Orders received are:					
About the same (%)	52	52	50	58	64
Rising (%)	7	5	14	26	20
Declining (%)	41	43	36	16	16
Balance	-34	-38	-22	10	4
Present backlog of unfilled orders is:					
About normal (%)	54	50	65	70	72
Higher than normal (%)	6	4	6	13	14
Lower than normal (%)	40	46	29	17	14
Balance	-34	-42	-23	-4	0
Finished product inventory on hand is:					
About right (%)	70	78	66	82	82
Too low (%)	2	2	4	4	5
Too high[1] (%)	28	20	30	14	13
Balance	-26	-18	-26	-10	-8
Employment during the next three months will:					
Change little (%)	72	67	71	76	75
Increase (%)	11	9	10	11	11
Decrease (%)	17	24	19	13	14
Balance	-6	-15	-9	-2	-3
	Unadjusted				
	%				
Sources of production difficulties:					
Working capital shortage	2	3	3	2	2
Skilled labour shortage	7	7	4	5	6
Unskilled labour shortage	3	2	1	1	2
Raw material shortage	2	2	2	2	3
Other difficulties	6	6	5	3	3
No difficulties	80	80	85	87	84

1 *No evident seasonality.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Farm product prices

June 2002

Prices received by farmers in June for grains, oilseeds, speciality crops, fruits, vegetables, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The Ontario slaughter steers price in June, at $98.61 per hundredweight, was the lowest since October 2001 when it hit $95.06, but still well above the low of $73.55 recorded in April 1996.

The June non-board wheat price in Manitoba, at $140.74 per metric tonne, was the highest since May 1998 when it reached $148.72, but still substantially below the record high of $221.23, in May 1996.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernie Rosien (613-951-2441; fax: 613-951-3868; *bernie.rosien@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Coal and coke statistics

May 2002

Coal production totalled 6 096 kilotonnes in May, up 3.3% from May 2001. Production in British Columbia (directed mainly to export markets) reached 2 562 kilotonnes, up 9.6% from May 2001. Year-to-date production at the end of May was 28 299 kilotonnes, down 3.8% from the same period of 2001.

Exports fell to 2 181 kilotonnes in May, down 27.9% from May 2001. During the same period, exports to Japan (the largest consumer of Canadian coal) increased 12.7% to 1 007 kilotonnes. Year-to-date figures show total exports of 11 272 kilotonnes at the end of May, down 18.9% from the same period of 2001.

Coke production in May decreased to 268 kilotonnes, down 2.6% from May 2001.

Available on CANSIM: tables 3030016 and 303-0017.

The May 2002 issue of *Coal and Coke Statistics*, Vol. 81, no. 5 (45-002-XIB, $9/$85) 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; *energ@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Melanie Murray (613-951-4923; *melanie.murray@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric power statistics

May 2002

As a result of colder-than-normal temperatures throughout Canada, net generation of electricity increased to 45 080 gigawatt hours (GWh) in May, up 0.8% from May 2001. Exports fell 40.9% to 2 687 GWh, but imports rose from 1 668 GWh to 1 778 GWh.

Increased generating capability in Quebec and Ontario was the main reason for the 4.8% rise in generation of hydro electricity to 27 479 GWh. Thermal conventional generation was down 0.8% to 12 828 GWh. Generation from nuclear sources was down 14.4% to 4 773 GWh as a result of decreased generation in New Brunswick and Quebec.

Year-to-date net generation at the end of May totalled 247 605 GWh, down 0.01% from the same period of 2001. Year-to-date exports (15 106 GWh) were down 19.4%, whereas year-to-date imports (7 623 GWh) fell 19.4% from the same period of 2001.

Available on CANSIM: table 127-0001.

The May 2002 issue of *Electric power statistics*, Vol. 70, no. 5 (57-001-XIB, $9/$85) 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; *energ@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Melanie Murray (613-951-4923; *melanie.murray@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Construction type plywood

May 2002

Firms produced 162 879 cubic metres of construction-type plywood in May, down 7.4% from 175 938 cubic metres in May 2001.

Year-to-date production at the end of May totalled 875 733 cubic metres, up 2.1% from 857 391 in the same period of 2001.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0005.

The May 2002 issue of *Construction type plywood*, Vol. 50, no. 5 (35-001-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*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat, a weekly review, August 2, 2002
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE ($3/$109).

Infomat, a weekly review, August 2, 2002
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE ($4/$145).

Gross domestic product by industry, May 2002, Vol. 16, no. 5
Catalogue number 15-001-XIE ($11/$110).

Construction type plywood, May 2002, Vol. 50, no. 5
Catalogue number 35-001-XIB ($5/$47).

Coal and coke statistics, May 2002, Vol. 81, no. 5
Catalogue number 45-002-XIB ($9/$85).

Electric power statistics, May 2002, Vol. 70, no. 5
Catalogue number 57-001-XIB ($9/$85).

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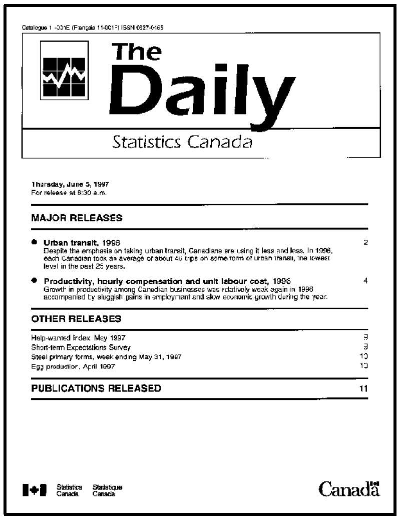

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Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **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 [illegible] 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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RELEASE DATES: AUGUST 5 TO 9

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	**Title**	**Reference period**
7	**Building permits**	June 2002
8	**Help-wanted Index**	July 2002
9	**Labour Force Survey**	July 2002

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