



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries, April 2003** 2
Concerned with lower levels of new and unfilled orders, manufacturers expect to decrease production levels in the coming three months.

OTHER RELEASES

Crude oil and natural gas, February 2003	5
Electric power statistics, February 2003	5
Aircraft movement statistics, 2002	5
Annual Survey of Manufactures, 2000 and 2001	6

NEW PRODUCTS

RELEASE DATES: May 5 to 9



MAJOR RELEASES

Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries

April 2003

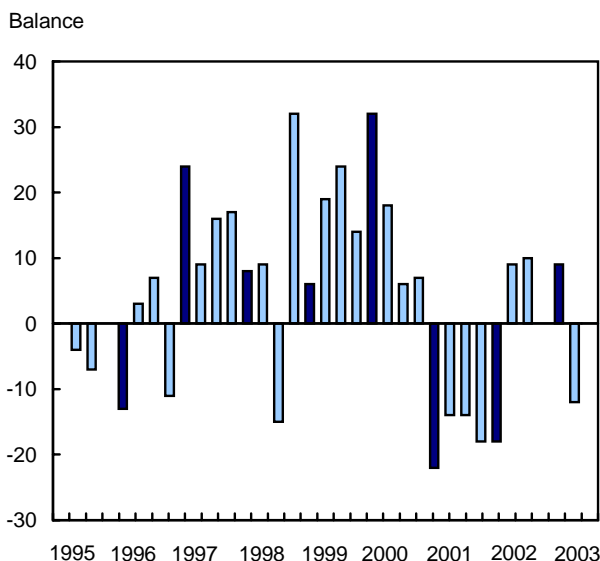
Concerned with lower levels of new and unfilled orders, manufacturers expect to decrease production levels in the coming three months. Key factors influencing the manufacturers' intentions this quarter include global uncertainty and the appreciation of the Canadian dollar.

The voluntary survey, to which almost 4,000 responded, requests manufacturers' opinions on production impediments, finished product inventory levels, new and unfilled order levels, production and employment prospects in the coming three months.

Manufacturers expect to decrease production

In April, 31% of manufacturers stated they would decrease production in the second quarter, while only 19% expected to increase production, leaving the balance of opinion at -12. In addition, 12 of the 21 major industry groupings, representing 60% of manufacturing shipments, indicated a negative outlook for the second quarter of 2003.

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



Note to readers

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 correspondingly larger impact on the results than smaller manufacturers.

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

The Business Conditions Survey has adopted the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) for its 2003 reference year; data for previous years have been recalculated to the new classification system back to 1992 to aid users with historical continuity. Detailed NAICS estimates are now available in CANSIM.

Developed by the statistical agencies of Canada, Mexico and the United States, NAICS is designed to provide a common statistical framework and common definitions of the industrial structure of the three countries. The new classification facilitates the analysis and improves the comparability of the three countries' data.

Producers in the transportation equipment, computer and electronic product and primary metal industries were the major contributors to the 21-point drop in the balance of opinion from January. This is the largest balance decrease since a 31-point drop in January 2001.

The balance of opinion is determined by subtracting the proportion of manufacturers that stated production would decrease in the coming three months from the proportion who stated production would be increasing.

Greater concern with the current backlog of unfilled orders

The balance of opinion concerning the current level of unfilled orders was -19 in April, as 26% of manufacturers said their level of unfilled orders was lower than normal and only 7% said it was higher than normal. Of the 21 major industry groupings, 18 contributed to the 13-point drop in the balance, led by the transportation equipment, computer and electronic product, primary metals and fabricated metal product industries.

According to the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, unfilled orders in February stood at slightly over \$43 billion, down 7.6% from February 2002.

Manufacturers preoccupied with level of orders received

Also dropping was the balance of opinion on the current level of orders received, which fell 18 points to -17, as the number of manufacturers who stated that orders were declining went from 14% in January to 26% in April. Again, producers in the transportation equipment, computer and electronic product, primary metals and fabricated metal product industries were the major contributors to the drop in the balance.

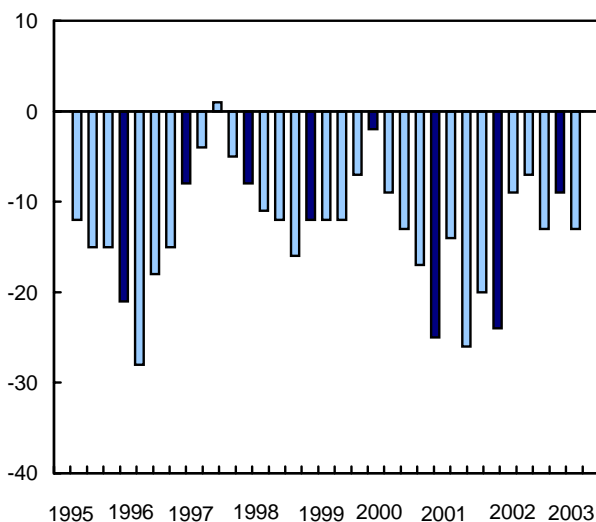
Finished products inventories still not a major concern

In April, 81% of manufacturers reported that the current level of finished products inventory was about right. However, 16% of manufacturers stated that inventories were too high, while 3% said inventories were too low, leaving the balance of opinion at -13, a 4-point decrease from January.

According to February's Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, finished product inventories posted a 1.2% increase to almost \$20 billion, their highest level since July 2001.

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

Balance



Employment prospects drop slightly

The balance of opinion for employment prospects for the next three months decreased 5 points in April to -5. The relatively large decline in production expectations and concerns with lower orders did not fully carry over into the employment prospects. While 82% of manufacturers stated that they would keep or add to their workforce, 18% indicated that they expected to decrease employment in the coming quarter.

According to the latest results of the Labour Force Survey (March), factory jobs have declined in five of the last seven months. In March, there were 37,000 fewer manufacturing jobs, wiping out February's gains (+21,000).

Manufacturers report little change in production impediments

About 83% of manufacturers reported little in the way of production impediments in April, down 2 points from the January survey. The proportion reporting a shortage of skilled labour decreased one point to 5%. A shortage of unskilled labour was reported by 1% of manufacturers.

Available on CANSIM: tables 302-0007 and 302-0008.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2152.

For general information or to order data, 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; claudio.robillard@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division

□

Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries

	April 2002	July 2002	October 2002	January 2003	April 2003
	Seasonally adjusted				
Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:					
About the same (%)	55	69	66	63	50
Higher (%)	27	20	17	23	19
Lower (%)	18	10	17	14	31
Balance	9	10	0	9	-12
Orders received are:					
About the same (%)	57	60	55	71	65
Rising (%)	25	22	27	15	9
Declining (%)	17	18	18	14	26
Balance	8	4	9	1	-17
Present backlog of unfilled orders is:					
About normal (%)	68	70	74	70	67
Higher than Normal (%)	13	14	8	12	7
Lower than Normal (%)	19	16	18	18	26
Balance	-6	-2	-10	-6	-19
Finished product inventory on hand is:					
About right (%)	80	80	78	83	81
Too low (%)	5	6	5	4	3
Too high ¹ (%)	15	14	18	13	16
Balance	-10	-8	-13	-9	-13
Employment during the next three months will:					
Change little (%)	74	72	72	74	69
Increase (%)	12	13	13	13	13
Decrease (%)	14	15	15	13	18
Balance	-2	-2	-2	0	-5
	Unadjusted				
	%				
Sources of production difficulties:					
Working capital shortage	2	2	2	3	3
Skilled labour shortage	5	7	6	6	5
Unskilled labour shortage	1	2	4	1	1
Raw material shortage	2	3	2	3	4
Other difficulties	3	2	3	2	3
No difficulties	86	83	84	85	83

¹ No evident seasonality.

OTHER RELEASES

Crude oil and natural gas

February 2003 (preliminary)

Crude oil production totalled 10 606 500 cubic metres in February, up 0.6% from February 2002. Exports, which accounted for 59.0% of total production, decreased 1.3% from February 2002.

Year-to-date production of crude oil increased 2.6% from the same period of 2002; crude oil exports were also on the rise, up 3.7%.

Marketable natural gas production rose 1.7% from February 2002, while domestic sales grew 12.3% over the same period. Exports of natural gas increased 0.3%.

Crude oil and natural gas

	Feb. 2002	Feb. 2003	Feb. 2002 to Feb. 2003 % change
	Thousands of cubic metres		
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	10 541.1	10 606.5	0.6
Exports	6 347.0	6 261.6	-1.3
Imports ²	4 253.3	3 851.1	-9.5
Refinery receipts	8 304.9	8 180.1	-1.5
	Millions of cubic metres		
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	13 595.6	13 826.9	1.7
Exports	8 894.2	8 923.7	0.3
Domestic sales ⁴	7 434.3	8 350.3	12.3
	Jan. to Feb. 2002	Jan. to Feb. 2003	Jan.-Feb. 2002 to Jan.-Feb. 2003 % change
	Thousands of cubic metres		
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	21 706.2	22 268.9	2.6
Exports	12 987.3	13 466.4	3.7
Imports ²	8 592.1	8 305.8	-3.3
Refinery receipts	17 370.3	17 420.8	0.3
	Millions of cubic metres		
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	28 817.4	29 357.6	1.9
Exports	18 308.6	18 985.5	3.7
Domestic sales ⁴	15 725.6	17 466.6	11.1

¹ Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

² Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division (ITD) estimates because of timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export in the ITD data.

³ Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

⁴ Includes direct sales.

Year-to-date marketable production of natural gas increased 1.9% from the same period of 2002. Domestic sales rose 11.1%, and exports were up 3.7%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 126-0001 and 131-0001.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2198.

Preliminary data at the provincial level are available up to February 2003 on a cost-recovery basis.

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

Electric power statistics

February 2003

Data on electric power are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: table 127-0001.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2151.

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

Aircraft movement statistics

2002

Airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations recorded 5.9 million take-offs and landings in 2002, down 5.4% from 2001.

The sector distribution for itinerant movements at these airports was 85% domestic, 13% transborder, and 2% other international. The proportions were similar to 2001.

Statistics for the Canadian airports without air traffic control towers are also available. These 115 airports reported 0.72 million take-offs and landings in 2002.

The annual report *Aircraft movement statistics* (TP577, free) is now available on Transport Canada's website (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/TP577/tp577.htm>).

For more information on this website, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; villenm@tc.gc.ca) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; rajanis@tc.gc.ca), Transport Canada.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2715.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Annual Survey of Manufactures

2000 and 2001

The Annual Survey of Manufactures collects information on over 250 different industries. Principal statistics are now available for Canada, the provinces and the territories for 2000 and 2001.

Available on CANSIM: tables 301-0003 and 301-0005.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2103.

To order data, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, 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, May 2, 2003
Catalogue number **11-002-XIE** (\$3/\$109).

Infomat — a weekly review, May 2, 2003
Catalogue number **11-002-XPE** (\$4/\$145).

Gross domestic product by industry, February 2003, Vol. 17, no. 2
Catalogue number **15-001-XIE** (\$11/\$110).

Hog statistics, 2003, Vol. 2, no. 2
Catalogue number **23-010-XIE**
(free).

Annual estimates of employment, earnings and hours based on the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), 1991–2002
Catalogue number **72F0023XCB** (\$150).

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 or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the uncertainties on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow moderate growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada

The Daily, May 2, 2003

RELEASE DATES: MAY 5 TO 9

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
6	Building permits	March 2003
6	Help-wanted Index	April 2003
8	Field crop reporting series: Stocks of Canadian grain at March 31, 2003	2003
9	Labour Force Survey	April 2003