



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, October 14, 2004

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Canadian international merchandise trade, August 2004** 2  
 Canada's merchandise trade surplus rebounded in August to the second highest level in three and a half years as imports fell at a faster rate than exports. Exports fell 0.4% while imports were down 4.4%.
  - **New motor vehicle sales, August 2004** 5  
 New motor vehicle sales slipped 1.2% in August, eating into the gain observed in July.
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## Canadian international merchandise trade

Canada's merchandise trade surplus rebounded in August to the second highest level in three and a half years as imports fell at a faster rate than exports.

### Note to readers

*Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.*

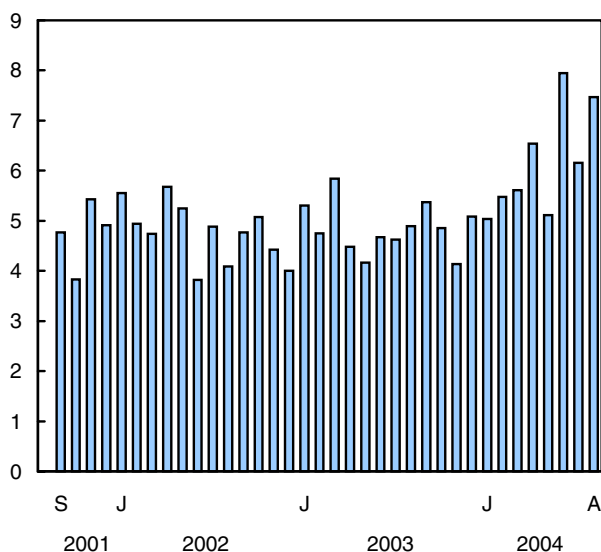
## Revisions

*In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Customs basis data are revised for the previous data year each quarter.*

Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures, changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors.

*Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.*

## \$ billions



Canadian companies imported \$30.2 billion worth of merchandise, down 4.4% over July. This decline encompassed all seven import commodity sectors.

As a result, Canada's merchandise trade surplus jumped by \$1.3 billion to \$7.5 billion.

Demand for goods faltered south of the border, as exports to the United States fell by 1.1%. At the same time, Canadians purchased 6.5% less from American firms. This resulted in a \$1.1 billion increase in Canada's trade surplus with the United States to \$10.1 billion—only the third time on record that Canada's trade surplus with the United States has topped \$10 billion.

Exports to countries other than the United States increased slightly to \$7.0 billion. At the same time, non-US imports increased 2.1% to \$9.7 billion. As a

result, Canada's non-US trade deficit fell to \$2.7 billion from \$2.9 billion in July.

## Weather affects export demand

Energy products exports cooled slightly in August, down 2.6% to \$6.3 billion. Natural gas exports fell by 1.7% to \$2.7 billion. With export prices rising, volumes fell by 4.7% because of adequate underground storage inventories in the United States for the upcoming heating season. Crude petroleum exports declined by 2.9% to \$2.3 billion. Other energy product exports fell by 3.8% to \$1.3 billion. Most prominent in this decline were exports of electricity. While volume rose slightly the export price index fell by 3.6%.

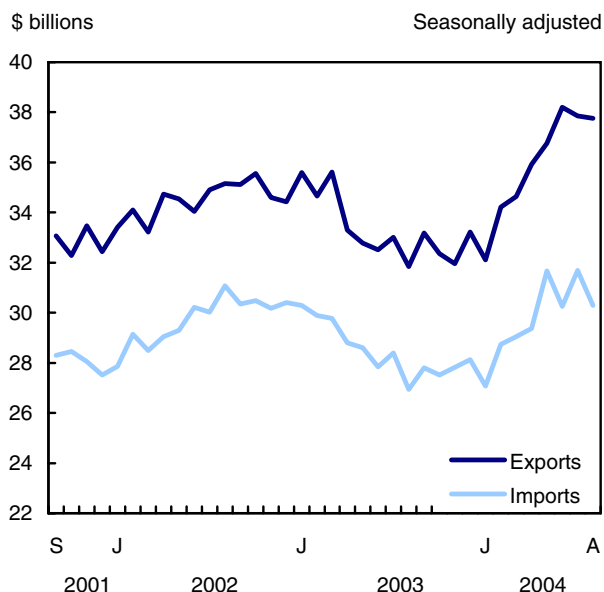
Exports of machinery and equipment declined 2.0% to \$7.9 billion. Following a buoyant June and July, exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment exports fell by 3.5% to \$2.0 billion. Industrial and agricultural machinery exports fell by 4.0% to \$1.8 billion. The other machinery and equipment commodity grouping declined only slightly, thanks to solid growth in exports of television and telecom and related equipment (up 6.9% to \$1.1 billion).

Forestry product exports fell slightly to \$3.5 billion, as strong demand for lumber and sawmill products in the United States failed to offset reductions in exports of newsprint and other paper exports (down 5.0% to \$1.0 billion) and wood pulp and wood product exports (down 3.1% to half a billion dollars). Lumber exports were up by 12.6%, due in part to price increases coupled with a stronger Canadian dollar. The impact of the hurricane season increased demand for plywood in smaller Caribbean nations while curtailing supply in Florida, where wood product plants were shut down.

Non-US exports of forestry products have increased lately—especially to Japan and China. The recently released Chinese Timber Structural Design Building Code makes wood-frame houses a viable alternative to traditional concrete construction.

Exports of industrial goods and materials increased marginally to \$6.6 billion, when strong foreign demand for metal ores offset reduced exports of all chemicals, plastics and fertilizers (down 0.7% to \$2.3 billion), metals and alloys (down 5.1% to \$2.1 billion) and other industrial goods and materials (down 1.4% to \$1.6 billion). Global shortages of nickel, a key ingredient in stainless steel, pushed prices up 34.1% in August. Volume increases in nickel shipments were concentrated in partially refined and unrefined nickel.

### Exports and imports



Automotive exports bounced back in August, rising 1.5% to \$7.7 billion. Most of the increase was attributed to motor vehicle parts. Exports rose by 4.3% to \$2.3 billion when the parts supply chain re-loaded following lower production in July. Exports of passenger autos increased slightly to \$4.1 billion. Exports of trucks and other motor vehicles fell slightly to \$1.2 billion.

Exports of agricultural products rebounded with an increase of 1.3% to \$2.8 billion, mainly a result of improved conditions for wheat during the 2004 growing season. Exports of wheat grew by 25.8% to \$418 million, mainly to Japan and China.

### Imports down in all merchandise sectors

A six month increase in imports of industrial goods and materials ended in August with a 4.3% decline to \$6.1 billion. Imports of nearly all commodity groupings within the industrial goods and materials sector declined in August.

Energy product imports decreased 9.4% to \$2.1 billion. Imports of crude petroleum gained 8.4% to \$1.5 billion. Meanwhile, lower demand for electricity for air conditioning during a relatively cool August resulted in a drop in imports of other energy products used to generate electricity (down 36.3% to \$576.6 million).

Imports of automotive products declined by 5.4% to \$6.7 billion. Passenger auto and chassis imports declined 14.2% to \$1.9 billion. Trucks and other motor vehicles decreased by 7.3% to \$1.3 billion. Imports of motor vehicle parts for new car production and repairs increased slightly to \$3.5 billion.

Imports of machinery and equipment declined by 4.8% to \$8.5 billion. With the exception of aircraft and other transportation equipment, all commodity groupings in the machinery and equipment sector declined.

Imports of consumer goods fell 4.3% to \$3.9 billion on widespread declines.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0046.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.**

The August 2004 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade* (65-001-XIB, \$15/\$151) will soon be available. The publication includes tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001-XIE, \$32/\$100).

Merchandise trade data are available in PDF format on the morning of release.

For more information on the publications, contact Jocelyne Elibani (613-951-9786 or toll free: 1-800-294-5583). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daryl Keen (613-951-1810), International Trade Division.

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## Merchandise trade

	July 2004 <sup>r</sup>	August 2004	July to August 2004	August 2003 to August 2004	January to August 2003	January to August 2004	January - August 2003 to January - August 2004
\$ current , seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
<b>Principal trading partners</b>							
<b>Exports</b>							
United States	31,057	30,692	-1.2	17.4	223,449	234,850	5.1
Japan	928	866	-6.7	12.0	6,767	6,832	1.0
European Union	2,554	2,712	6.2	33.8	15,827	18,227	15.2
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	1,039	1,096	5.5	18.9	8,245	9,474	14.9
All other countries	2,270	2,341	3.1	19.1	15,005	18,043	20.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,847</b>	<b>37,708</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>269,291</b>	<b>287,427</b>	<b>6.7</b>
<b>Imports</b>							
United States	22,019	20,581	-6.5	8.5	161,729	164,769	1.9
Japan	877	829	-5.5	7.5	7,399	6,684	-9.7
European Union	3,175	3,154	-0.7	14.8	23,762	24,012	1.1
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	1,824	1,947	6.7	29.0	13,236	14,789	11.7
All other countries	3,798	3,775	-0.6	28.0	24,432	27,874	14.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,694</b>	<b>30,286</b>	<b>-4.4</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>230,559</b>	<b>238,130</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Balance</b>							
United States	9,038	10,111	...	...	61,720	70,081	...
Japan	51	37	...	...	-632	148	...
European Union	-621	-442	...	...	-7,935	-5,785	...
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	-785	-851	...	...	-4,991	-5,315	...
All other countries	-1,528	-1,434	...	...	-9,427	-9,831	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,153</b>	<b>7,422</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>38,732</b>	<b>49,297</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Principal commodity groupings</b>							
<b>Exports</b>							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,763	2,800	1.3	17.8	19,299	21,268	10.2
Energy products	6,486	6,318	-2.6	30.8	42,389	45,407	7.1
Forestry products	3,477	3,469	-0.2	18.9	22,593	26,557	17.5
Industrial goods and materials	6,589	6,649	0.9	24.4	43,765	51,139	16.8
Machinery and equipment	8,107	7,947	-2.0	9.8	60,231	61,995	2.9
Automotive products	7,599	7,715	1.5	15.9	58,336	60,714	4.1
Other consumer goods	1,467	1,439	-1.9	3.1	11,491	11,704	1.9
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	698	690	-1.1	6.3	5,213	5,320	2.1
Other balance of payments adjustments	660	682	3.3	62.4	5,978	3,323	-44.4
<b>Imports</b>							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,801	1,677	-6.9	-2.6	14,519	14,088	-3.0
Energy products	2,269	2,055	-9.4	31.3	13,315	15,384	15.5
Forestry products	278	258	-7.2	2.8	2,034	2,078	2.2
Industrial goods and materials	6,330	6,056	-4.3	18.9	43,916	47,333	7.8
Machinery and equipment	8,940	8,514	-4.8	5.7	66,219	68,531	3.5
Automotive products	7,076	6,690	-5.5	22.0	51,711	51,537	-0.3
Other consumer goods	4,030	3,857	-4.3	0.7	31,010	31,178	0.5
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	424	658	55.2	50.2	3,575	3,774	5.6
Other balance of payments adjustments	547	521	-4.8	2.2	4,262	4,228	-0.8

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

1. Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

2. These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

## New motor vehicle sales

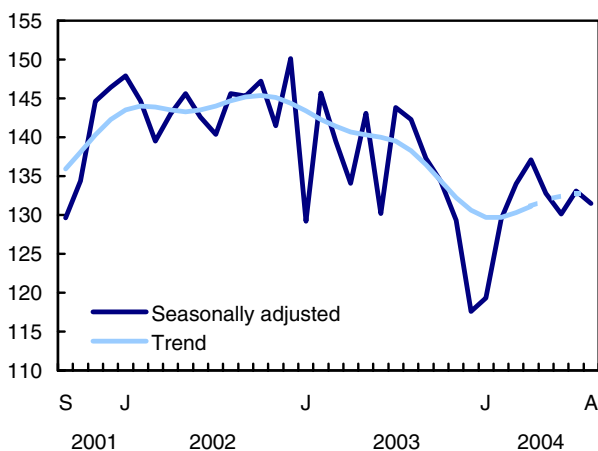
August 2004

New motor vehicle sales slipped 1.2% in August, eating into the gain observed in July. The decline registered in August is entirely attributable to weak sales of both trucks and overseas-built passenger cars. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

In all, consumers purchased 131,543 new vehicles, down 1,584 units compared with July.

### New motor vehicle sales declined in August after rebounding in July

'000 units



The last few trend points could be subject to revisions when more data are added. This is indicated by the dashed line.

New motor vehicle sales have remained relatively stable since May 2004, following a string of increases that began at the start of the year and peaked in April. Previously, sales had gone through a period of major declines throughout the second half of 2003. This plunge in sales resulted in a sizable build-up of new vehicle inventories in Canada, which have since been sold off. In the first half of 2003, sales showed major fluctuations while at the same time trending downward.

Based on preliminary automobile industry figures, the number of new motor vehicles sold in September is estimated to have fallen by approximately 3%, with the decline mainly attributable to passenger cars.

#### Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise indicated. Seasonally adjusted provincial data back to January 1991 are available on CANSIM.

**Passenger cars** include those used for personal and commercial purposes, such as taxis or rental cars. **Trucks** include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

**North American-built new motor vehicles** include vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas.

For reasons of confidentiality, data for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are included with those for British Columbia.

The New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey is compiled on the basis of figures obtained from motor vehicle manufacturers and importers. These results may vary from those obtained directly from auto dealers, due to possible differences in record keeping.

### Sales decrease attributable to both trucks and overseas-built cars

The number of new trucks sold in August dropped 1.9%, wiping out the gain observed in July. In all, 62,438 new trucks were purchased in August.

The 6.2% drop in the number of overseas-built cars sold in August caused overall sales of passenger cars to fall by 0.5%. Sales of overseas-built cars (which account for one-quarter of all cars) have performed more poorly thus far in 2004—declining in six of the past eight months.

In August, sales of North American-built passenger cars rose 1.6% compared with July, when they registered the largest gain since the start of the year. North American-built cars include cars made by foreign manufacturers that produce cars in North America.

Both passenger car sales and truck sales grew in the first four months of 2004, following a period of steep declines in the second half of 2003. This downward movement first appeared in sales of passenger cars, which began to decline in the fall of 2002. For truck sales, the weakness appeared in mid-2003.

### Sales up in the West and most of the Atlantic provinces

In August, new motor vehicle sales advanced in all of the Western provinces and every Atlantic province except Prince Edward Island. Quebec and Ontario were the other two provinces reporting sales declines.

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In Western Canada, where all provinces (except Manitoba) reported a second consecutive increase, Saskatchewan registered the largest gain (+4.8%) in the country. New motor vehicle sales in Saskatchewan, which rose sharply in February, have since then remained relatively stable.

In the Atlantic provinces, the advance in sales registered in August by New Brunswick was a third consecutive gain, whereas it was the second for Newfoundland and Labrador and a rebound for Nova Scotia, which had registered a sharp decline in July.

Quebec and Ontario, which accounted for almost two-thirds of national sales, saw declines of 4.2% and 1.3% respectively, following the gains observed in July.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 079-0001 and 079-0002.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2402.**

The August 2004 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007-XIE, \$14/\$133) will soon be available.

Data on new motor vehicle sales for September 2004 will be released on November 15.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363), Distributive Trades Division.



## New motor vehicle sales

	August 2003	July 2004 <sup>r</sup>	August 2004 <sup>p</sup>	August 2003 to August 2004	July to August 2004
seasonally adjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
<b>New motor vehicles</b>	<b>142,324</b>	<b>133,127</b>	<b>131,543</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
Passenger cars	74,155	69,455	69,105	-6.8	-0.5
North American <sup>1</sup>	52,442	50,444	51,270	-2.2	1.6
Overseas	21,714	19,010	17,835	-17.9	-6.2
Trucks, vans and buses	68,169	63,673	62,438	-8.4	-1.9
<b>New motor vehicles</b>					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,422	1,934	1,992	-17.8	3.0
Prince Edward Island	454	396	384	-15.4	-3.0
Nova Scotia	4,007	3,723	3,769	-5.9	1.2
New Brunswick	3,268	2,933	2,990	-8.5	1.9
Quebec	37,551	34,633	33,164	-11.7	-4.2
Ontario	53,245	51,111	50,468	-5.2	-1.3
Manitoba	4,008	3,753	3,815	-4.8	1.7
Saskatchewan	3,880	3,276	3,433	-11.5	4.8
Alberta	17,163	16,164	16,283	-5.1	0.7
British Columbia <sup>2</sup>	16,326	15,204	15,243	-6.6	0.3
	August 2003	July 2004	August 2004 <sup>p</sup>	August 2003 to August 2004	
unadjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
<b>New motor vehicles</b>	<b>145,108</b>	<b>136,582</b>	<b>136,200</b>	<b>-6.1</b>	
Passenger cars	78,013	72,570	73,943	-5.2	
North American <sup>1</sup>	52,954	51,686	53,721	1.4	
Overseas	25,059	20,884	20,222	-19.3	
Trucks, vans and buses	67,095	64,012	62,257	-7.2	
<b>New motor vehicles</b>					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,655	2,236	2,282	-14.0	
Prince Edward Island	494	485	430	-13.0	
Nova Scotia	4,047	3,955	3,848	-4.9	
New Brunswick	3,293	3,038	3,123	-5.2	
Quebec	40,504	37,250	35,859	-11.5	
Ontario	53,348	50,826	51,783	-2.9	
Manitoba	4,209	3,894	4,149	-1.4	
Saskatchewan	3,918	3,279	3,729	-4.8	
Alberta	16,679	15,373	15,922	-4.5	
British Columbia <sup>2</sup>	15,961	16,246	15,075	-5.6	

<sup>r</sup> Revised.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

1. Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

2. Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Export and import price indexes

August 2004

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1997=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to August 2004 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to August 2004. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available now on a customs basis.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001, 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.**

The August 2004 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade* (65-001-XIB, \$15/\$151) will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

### Food consumption

2003

More fruits are being added to Canadian diets. Though traditional fruits and vegetables are still the main choice, tropical and foreign produce are taking hold.

Canadians continue to increase fruit consumption with the majority of it being fresh fruit. Bananas, apples and oranges are still the fruits of choice as Canadians consume a large variety of different fruits. Pineapple consumption has tripled in the past 10 years and now surpasses peaches, which are grown in parts of Canada.

On average, a Canadian consumed 77 kg of fresh vegetables in 2003, with nearly half of it being potatoes. Lettuce, carrots, onions and tomatoes were the next

most consumed vegetables, yet added all together they constituted just over half of the volume of potatoes.

New vegetables are continuously being incorporated into the Canadian diet. In just over 15 years, eating patterns of Canadians have changed to now include nearly half a kilogram of Chinese cabbage per year. This is on par with the consumption of radishes and nearly triple that of fresh peas.

The consumption of juice has dipped slightly from 2002, remaining around 25 litres per Canadian. Orange is still the juice of choice (12.4 litres) and is nearly double that of apple, the second preferred juice.

The consumption of fish decreased slightly in 2003 to 6.9 kg. Besides being a good source of protein, fish is low in saturated fat. When given the choice between red meat, poultry or fish, Canadians consume fish the least. However, marketing and promotional campaigns, and the availability of convenient and easy to prepare products have been factors contributing to boosting fish consumption.

Though Canadians have reduced their consumption of margarine, the overall ingestion of oils and fats continues to rise. It is boosted by the increased usage of salad oils and shortening oils by households and/or food service outlets in salad dressing, deep-fried products and baked goods. Though oils and fats do provide some essential lipids and vitamin E to diets, they are also high in calories.

Generally, consumption of food has trended up over time. In turn, the energy level in Canadian diets continues its slow creep up. Caloric consumption has been rising between 1% and 3% year-over-year since 1993. With the overall increase in the consumption of food, the ingestion of many vitamins and minerals, which play an integral part in how well the body functions, has also increased.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0010, 002-0011 and 002-0019.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3403, 3404, 3407, 3430 and 3475.**

The 2003 issue of *Food Statistics*, Vol. 3, no. 2 (21-020-XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

More detailed information can be found on the CD-ROM *Canada Food Stats* (23F0001XCB, \$81/\$129),



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which will soon be available. This is an easy-to-use system that provides access to a broad spectrum of data, preformatted reports and articles on food and the food industry.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kim Boyuk (613-951-2510; or toll-free: 1-800-465-1991; [kimberley.boyuk@statcan.ca](mailto:kimberley.boyuk@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## **Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins**

August 2004

Data on industrial chemicals and synthetic resins for August are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0014.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2183.**

The August 2004 issue of *Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins*, Vol. 47, no. 8 (46-002-XIE, \$6/\$51) 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 the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## **Annual Survey of Manufactures: Data by Census Division**

2000 to 2002

The Annual Survey of Manufactures collects information on over 250 industries. Data for the manufacturing industries by Census Division for 2000 to 2002 are now available.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: 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](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## NEW PRODUCTS

**Food Statistics, 2003, Vol. 3, no. 2**  
**Catalogue number 21-020-XIE**  
(free).

**All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.**

**Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins,**  
**August 2004, Vol. 47, no. 8**  
**Catalogue number 46-002-XIE (\$6/\$51).**

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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (If possible, 11-001-XIE-0001-0001-0001)



Statistics Canada

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



**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian rode the average of about 10 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 notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Household Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, year ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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