



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, February 13, 2004

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Canadian international merchandise trade, December 2003**  
 Merchandise exporters finished 2003 on a positive note, reporting a 3.6% gain in their shipments abroad for December, despite a Canadian dollar that hit decade-high levels. Total imports edged up 0.7%, their second consecutive monthly rise. As a result, Canada's merchandise trade surplus soared by nearly \$1 billion to \$5.4 billion, the largest increase since January 2003.

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  - **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, December 2003 and Annual 2003**  
 A modest increase in December's shipments capped off what has otherwise been a bumpy ride for manufacturers in 2003. Shipments rose 1.0% to \$42.7 billion, the first increase in three months.

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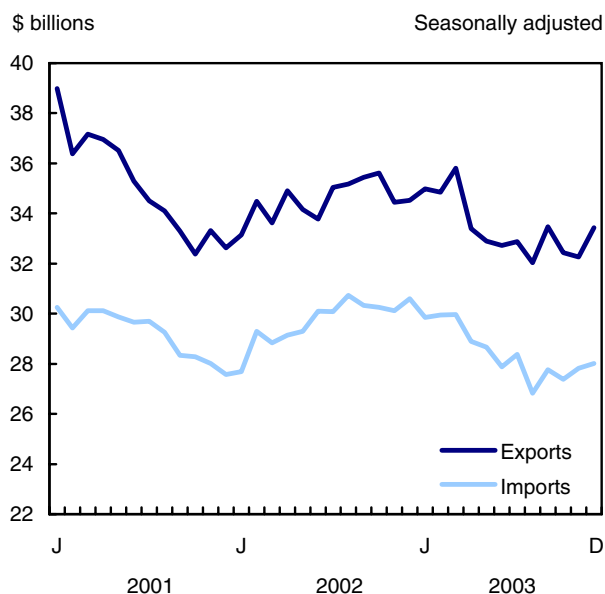
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Canadian international merchandise trade

December 2003

Merchandise exporters finished 2003 on a positive note, reporting a 3.6% gain in their shipments abroad for December, despite a Canadian dollar that hit decade-high levels. Total imports edged up 0.7%, their second consecutive monthly rise. As a result, Canada's merchandise trade surplus soared by nearly \$1 billion to \$5.4 billion, the largest increase since January 2003.

#### Exports and imports



Canadian companies exported \$33.4 billion in goods in December, led by strong automotive exports, which accounted for nearly one-half of the total gain in foreign-bound goods. Total imports reached \$28.0 billion on strong energy imports.

Except for a decline in trade with the European Union, export and import values increased with every major trading region.

The United States purchased \$27.1 billion worth of Canadian merchandise in December, up 2.1% from November. In turn, Canada imported \$19.5 billion from south of the border, up 0.6%.

Canada's trade surplus with the United States increased nearly half a billion dollars to \$7.6 billion,

#### Note to readers

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

"Other OECD countries," mentioned in the text, include Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

An annual review for 2003 will be released on March 10 at the same time as January 2004 monthly data.

#### Revisions

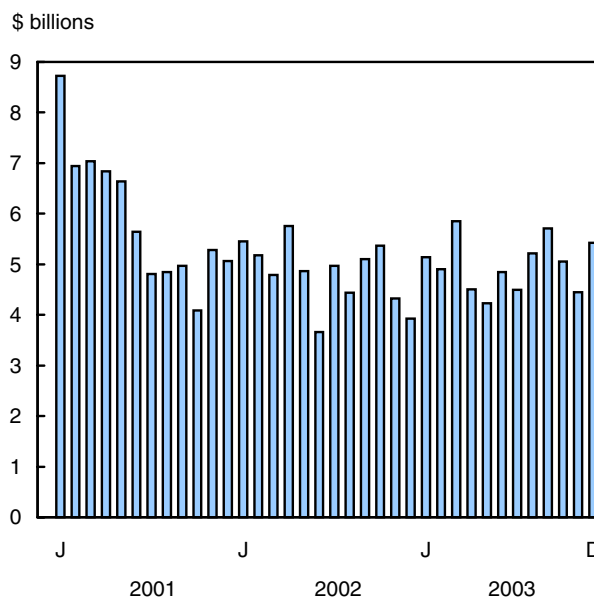
In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Customs basis data are revised for the previous data year each quarter.

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.

while Canada's non-US trade deficit was reduced by over half a billion dollars to \$2.1 billion.

#### Trade balance



Compared with December 2002, export prices declined 9%, while import prices dropped over 11%. The

decline in merchandise trade values during 2003 are, to a large extent, explained by these price movements. However, in terms of volumes, exports showed real growth of 6% and imports, 3.5%. This means that Canadians traded a larger volume of goods, despite the decline in values.

### Exports boosted by automotive rise

Exports of automotive products soared 8.0% to \$7.5 billion in December, their second largest percentage gain of 2003. It was surpassed only by an 11% rebound in September following the mid-August power blackout.

December's gain occurred as the result of production resuming on several assembly lines that had been shut down for extended periods during the fall. Usually, assembly lines are closed only for the Christmas season. Exports of trucks pushed ahead 9.3%, showing the most improvement, as increases in passenger auto and motor vehicle part merely reversed previous declines.

Exports rose in all other sectors except forestry products, which declined 2.3%. The drop was due mainly to lower volumes of lumber and sawmill products, which include other wood fabricated materials, whose prices cooled off from their mid-2003 surge.

Higher exports of metal ores — nickel, copper and zinc, in particular — helped push up exports in the industrial goods and materials sector by 6.8% to just under \$6.0 billion. Exporters enjoyed high prices for these products, despite the strong Canadian dollar.

Exports of machinery and equipment ended back-to-back monthly declines, with a 3.0% increase to \$7.2 billion. Most products in this sector showed modest turnarounds, led by aircraft, engines and parts and other equipment and tools.

Natural gas exports hit \$2.1 billion in December, up 19.1% from November, enough to offset declines in most other energy commodities. As a result, total energy exports rose 1.2% to \$4.7 billion. Prices for natural gas crept up during the month, as inventories and demand adjusted to the winter season.

Crude petroleum exports fell 11.0% to \$1.6 billion, despite a reported increase in overall demand. This drop was entirely volume-related, as prices remained strong.

Mad cow disease surfaced in the United States in late December, having the potential to exasperate Canada and US trade in beef products and live cattle. Though there was a small decline in imports of meat and meat preparations for the month, the impact has yet to emerge in monthly trade statistics.

### Substantial jump in natural gas imports

Imports increased in most major sectors in December, but the most significant jump occurred in energy products, primarily natural gas.

Energy imports rose 7.0% to more than \$1.7 billion, largely the result of higher imports of natural gas, destined mainly for the southeastern Ontario market. Natural gas imports into this region are not uncommon, as occasionally Ontario will supplement supplies to its southeastern corridor with imports from the United States.

Nevertheless, Canada is still a net exporter of natural gas. December's purchases represented only a fraction of the \$2.1 billion that Canada exported during the month.

Imports of automotive products rose 1.0% to \$6.2 billion, recouping most of a 1.1% decline in November. Passenger auto imports increased 3.9%, enough to offset a drop in truck and other motor vehicle imports.

Machinery and equipment imports posted back-to-back monthly gains for only the second time in 2003. In December, they rose 1.1% to more than \$8 billion. This is the largest import sector and it accounts for almost 30% of all imports. Imports of aircraft, engines and parts continued to rebound, rising 26.2% to over \$700 million.

Increases in metals and metal ores (including steel rods and bars, metals in ores and other iron and steel products) were responsible for the overall 1.9% increase in imports of industrial goods and materials.

The most significant drop in imports occurred in consumer goods, which fell 3.6% to \$3.8 billion. Imports of apparel and footwear declined on lower volumes, as most arrive before the peak winter season.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 226-0001, 226-0002, 227-0001, 227-0002, 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.**

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

The December 2003 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade* (65-001-XIB, \$15/\$151) is now available. See *How to order products*. 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-XIB, \$32/\$100; 67-001-XPB, \$41/\$133).

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

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for January 2004 will be released on March 10.

For more information on the publications, contact Jocelyne Elibani, (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Matthew MacDonald (613-951-8551), International Trade Division.

## Merchandise trade

	November 2003 <sup>r</sup>	December 2003	November to December 2003	December 2002 to December 2003	January to December 2002	January to December 2003	January–December 2002 to January–December 2003
seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
<b>Principal trading partners</b>							
<b>Exports</b>							
United States	26,490	27,058	2.1	-6.1	346,992	331,064	-4.6
Japan	741	833	12.4	-9.0	10,292	9,904	-3.8
European Union	2,152	2,099	-2.5	10.5	22,736	24,150	6.2
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	932	1,252	34.3	37.9	12,342	12,750	3.3
All other countries	1,942	2,189	12.7	10.7	21,944	23,317	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,257</b>	<b>33,431</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>414,305</b>	<b>401,187</b>	<b>-3.2</b>
<b>Imports</b>							
United States	19,391	19,504	0.6	-6.9	254,929	239,200	-6.2
Japan	799	863	8.0	-25.3	11,732	10,659	-9.1
European Union	2,829	2,819	-0.4	-16.7	36,176	34,919	-3.5
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	1,683	1,688	0.3	-15.1	19,670	19,823	0.8
All other countries	3,111	3,132	0.7	0.7	33,952	36,781	8.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,812</b>	<b>28,007</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-8.4</b>	<b>356,458</b>	<b>341,382</b>	<b>-4.2</b>
<b>Balance</b>							
United States	7,099	7,554	...	...	92,063	91,864	...
Japan	-58	-30	...	...	-1,440	-755	...
European Union	-677	-720	...	...	-13,440	-10,769	...
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	-751	-436	...	...	-7,328	-7,073	...
All other countries	-1,169	-943	...	...	-12,008	-13,464	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,445</b>	<b>5,424</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>57,847</b>	<b>59,805</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Principal commodity groupings</b>							
<b>Exports</b>							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,521	2,526	0.2	-2.8	30,917	29,321	-5.2
Energy products	4,687	4,742	1.2	-5.4	49,542	61,271	23.7
Forestry products	2,962	2,893	-2.3	-6.8	37,198	34,503	-7.2
Industrial goods and materials	5,613	5,997	6.8	2.4	70,232	66,588	-5.2
Machinery and equipment	7,001	7,213	3.0	-8.0	97,302	89,240	-8.3
Automotive products	6,945	7,503	8.0	1.0	97,030	87,942	-9.4
Other consumer goods	1,407	1,426	1.4	-3.9	17,670	17,124	-3.1
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	592	604	2.0	-7.6	7,939	7,263	-8.5
Other balance of payments adjustments	529	526	-0.6	-2.4	6,472	7,939	22.7
<b>Imports</b>							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,729	1,752	1.3	-4.2	21,783	21,521	-1.2
Energy products	1,596	1,708	7.0	8.7	16,527	19,554	18.3
Forestry products	244	240	-1.6	-7.3	3,137	3,021	-3.7
Industrial goods and materials	5,270	5,368	1.9	-8.8	68,874	65,116	-5.5
Machinery and equipment	7,964	8,050	1.1	-8.4	105,866	98,196	-7.2
Automotive products	6,156	6,217	1.0	-14.0	81,450	76,356	-6.3
Other consumer goods	3,903	3,764	-3.6	-5.4	46,420	46,198	-0.5
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	439	402	-8.4	-18.1	5,952	5,246	-11.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	511	507	-0.8	-9.0	6,452	6,175	-4.3

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

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

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

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

## Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

December 2003 and Annual 2003

A modest increase in December's shipments capped off what has otherwise been a bumpy ride for manufacturers in 2003. Shipments rose 1.0% to \$42.7 billion, the first increase in three months. Meanwhile, manufacturers' prospects seem encouraging as they continue to sign new orders. Orders climbed 1.6% in December, the third boost in four months.

### Canada's manufacturers remain cautiously optimistic

Following a lacklustre 2003, Canadian manufacturers were cautiously optimistic regarding the outlook for the first quarter of 2004. According to the Business Conditions Survey for January, business confidence improved and greater satisfaction was expressed for finished-product inventory levels and orders received, while 30% of manufacturers anticipated that they would increase production during the first quarter. However, there was some trepidation noted regarding the low levels of unfilled orders.

On the job front, manufacturing employment rose by 4,800 positions in January, but remained well below levels of one year ago, according to the recent Labour Force Survey. Employment was largely unchanged in December (-1,900).

### Most provinces and the territories post gains in December

Ontario led the six provinces and the territories reporting higher shipments in December. Manufacturers posted shipments of \$22.7 billion, up \$325 million (+1.5%) in Ontario, wiping out November's 1.4% drop. The motor vehicle and chemical products industries were largely responsible.

Shipments in Quebec rose by \$52 million (+0.5%) to \$9.8 billion, the highest level since September. Aerospace manufacturing and quarter-end boosts in the computer industry were the primary contributors. New Brunswick also reported a strong gain in December, as shipments increased for the second month in a row to \$1.1 billion (+5.8%).

#### 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.

**Non-durable goods industries** include food, beverage and tobacco products, textile mills, textile product mills, leather and allied products, paper, printing and related support activities, petroleum and coal products, chemicals and plastic and rubber products.

**Durable goods industries** include clothing, wood products, non-metallic mineral products, primary metals, fabricated metal products, machinery, computer and electronic products, electrical equipment, appliance and components, transportation equipment, furniture and related products and miscellaneous manufacturing.

**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. Readers should take note that the month-to-month change in new orders may be volatile. This will happen particularly if the previous month's change in unfilled orders is closely related 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

	November 2003	December 2003	November to December 2003
seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change
Newfoundland and Labrador	202	207	2.7
Prince Edward Island	115	115	-0.4
Nova Scotia	747	735	-1.6
New Brunswick	1,083	1,146	5.8
Quebec	9,747	9,800	0.5
Ontario	22,386	22,711	1.5
Manitoba	972	999	2.9
Saskatchewan	648	643	-0.8
Alberta	3,567	3,602	1.0
British Columbia	2,806	2,741	-2.3
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	6	7	27.8

### Production of big-ticket items boosts shipments

By industry, 15 of the 21 major groups, accounting for 64% of total shipments, reported increases in December. Manufacturers of big ticket, durable goods, including aircrafts, motor vehicles and parts, rose 1.2%

to \$24.2 billion, the first increase since September. Nondurable goods manufacturing edged up 0.7% to \$18.5 billion.

Leading all industries, motor vehicle shipments increased 3.0% to \$5.0 billion in December, recovering somewhat from consecutive declines in October (-2.1%) and November (-4.1%). The trend for motor vehicle manufacturing has been gradually descending since mid-2002.

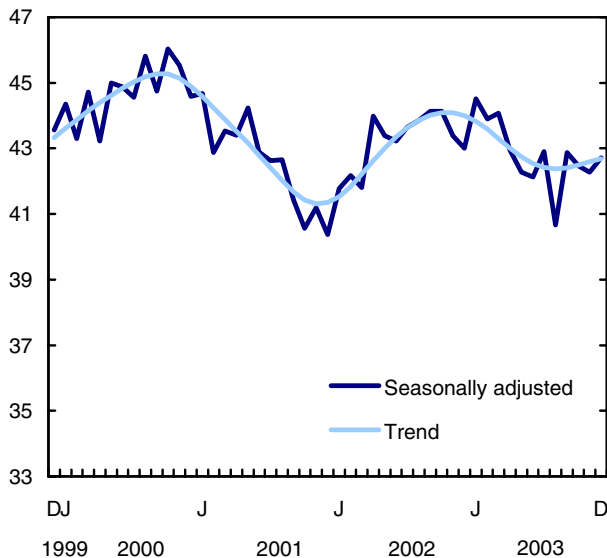
Motor vehicle production has been quite volatile in 2003, as manufacturers and retailers attempted to grapple with market conditions. During the year, auto retailers continued to tempt consumers with generous incentives, while low interest rates provide affordable financing. Despite these factors, in recent months, temporary plant shutdowns and a deceleration in production by some manufacturers have been necessary for inventory control purposes.

### Gains reported in aerospace and chemicals

Other industries reporting higher shipments in December included aerospace, chemical products and motor vehicle parts. Production of aerospace products and parts jumped 13.0% to \$920.6 million, regaining ground lost in November (-12.7%). Meanwhile, pharmaceutical manufacturers contributed to a 2.6% rise in shipments of chemical products to \$3.3 billion, the highest level since September. The motor vehicle parts industry reported a 2.7% increase in December.

#### Manufacturers' shipments rally in December

\$ billions



Partly offsetting the rise in total shipments was the wood products industry, where shipments plunged 7.6% to \$2.3 billion. This was the third consecutive decline, and was primarily due to a significant drop in the industrial price of wood and a labour dispute in British Columbia's coastal forestry sector.

### Manufacturers continue to clear out inventories

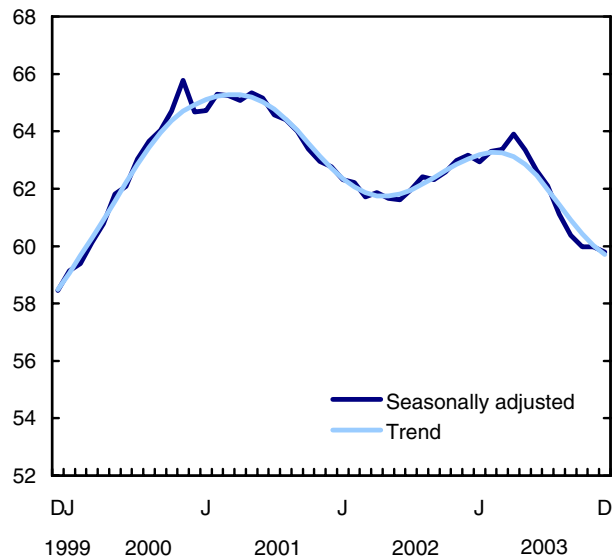
In December, inventories closed the year at \$59.8 billion, down 0.3% from November. Manufacturers' inventories have been in a gradual decline since last spring, falling 6.4% since their recent high of \$63.9 billion in April.

Inventories of raw materials, which have been on a steady decline throughout 2003, were essentially unchanged at \$25.9 billion in December, the lowest level in just over four years. Meanwhile, decreases were reported in both goods-in-process (-1.0%) and finished-product (-0.2%) inventories. Finished-products (\$18.9 billion) continued their downward trek, and following eight consecutive declines, they are at the lowest level since August 2002.

Decreases in inventories of aerospace products and parts (-1.7%) and primary metals (-1.2%) offset a 2.2% gain in the chemical products industry.

#### Inventories edge down again

\$ billions



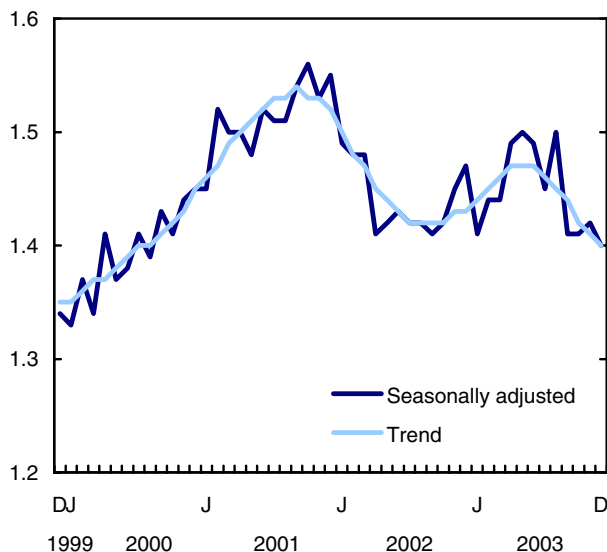
## The inventory-to-shipment ratio falls to a three-year low

Improved shipments coupled with a small reduction in inventories, contributed to a lower inventory-to-shipment ratio in December. The ratio fell to 1.40, the lowest level in over three years. Inventories have been trending down throughout the year.

The finished-product inventory-to-shipment ratio also edged down to 0.44 in December from 0.45 in November. This ratio is a measure of the time that would be required in order to exhaust finished-products if shipments were to remain at their current level.

### The inventory-to-shipment ratio falls back

\$ billions



## Manufacturers satisfied with level of new orders

Manufacturers of aerospace products, motor vehicles and computers were among several industries reporting higher new orders in December. New orders improved a healthy 1.6% to \$42.4 billion, doubling November's gain (+0.8%). A sign of future production, new orders have risen in three of the last four months.

### Order cancellations contribute to further declines in unfilled orders

Although manufacturers were upbeat about the level of new orders received, the ongoing decrease in the backlog of unfilled orders remained a vulnerable

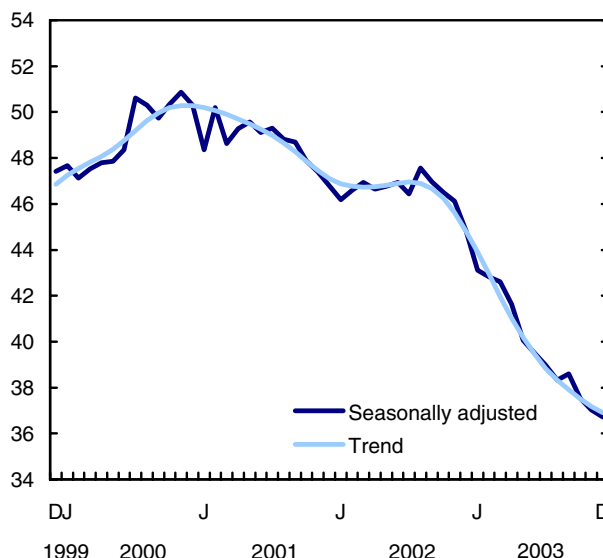
component of the Canadian manufacturing sector. Contract cancellations and weaknesses in some industries contributed to a 0.8% drop in unfilled orders to \$36.7 billion for December. Orders, currently at the lowest level since August 1997, have declined in 15 of the last 16 months.

Heading into 2004, the continued erosion of unfilled orders remained a source of unease for manufacturers. January's Business Conditions Survey noted that 23% of manufacturers expressed concern for the lower-than-normal backlog of orders.

Decreases in unfilled orders were widespread in December, including the transportation equipment (-0.9%), plastics and rubber products (-8.3%), and electrical equipment, appliance and component (-9.1%) industries.

### Unfilled orders continue to weaken

\$ billions



## Canadian manufacturers faced a rough ride in 2003

For the year as a whole, manufacturing shipments slipped 1.0% to \$513.2 billion in 2003, following a gain of 1.9% in 2002. As well, by year's end, manufacturers' books were significantly lighter. Unfilled orders were just \$36.7 billion in December, down 18% (-\$8.1 billion) from December 2002 (\$44.8 billion), and the lowest level in over six years.

On the positive side, inventories are down substantially (-5.3%) since December 2002, and in recent months, orders booked by manufacturers have been on the rise.

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## **Shipments and orders abound in the United States**

In contrast to Canada's slowdown in production, manufacturers south of the border muscled their way through 2003. US factory shipments increased 2.7% by year-end, as a steady stream of new orders were placed on manufacturers' books.

## **Various factors hold back Canadian manufacturing**

To recap, several negative events affected Canadian manufacturers and the economy as a whole in 2003. Most global economies were held at bay during the first part of the year, as the war in Iraq unfolded. The SARS virus devastated the service and tourism sectors of the Toronto region, while the single case of BSE (mad cow disease) in Alberta closed international borders to Canadian beef.

Much of Canada's manufacturing heartland in Ontario was darkened by the electrical blackout of August 14. During the following week of energy conservation, many factories operated at reduced capacity. Meanwhile, fires consumed forests in British Columbia, and the Canada-US softwood lumber dispute trade remained in the courts of law. These events cut into what could have been a more prosperous year for the wood products industry, as North American demand for new housing boomed.

In addition to all of these factors, the Canadian dollar closed the year at a 10-year high against its US counterpart.

## **Autos and computers drive down shipments**

Despite incentive-laden deals and excellent financing options, motor vehicle manufacturers reported the largest decrease in shipments in 2003. Motor vehicle shipments slumped 5.0% to \$62.5 billion, following a robust 2002 (+5.7%).

Canada's telecommunications sector continued to struggle since the industry crashed in 2001. Shipments of computer and electronic products dropped 12.9% to \$18.5 billion in 2003. Just three years ago, computer shipments peaked at \$37.5 billion. In the latter half of 2003, there have been signs that the telecommunications sector may be starting to recover.

Other notable decreases in 2003 included paper manufacturing (-4.4%), in part the result of falling prices, the machinery industry (-5.3%) and the aerospace products and parts industry (-8.4%).

Higher industrial prices for petroleum and chemical products partly offset an otherwise dismal year for manufacturers. Prices of petroleum and coal products

soared earlier in 2003, boosting shipments 10.4% to \$35.7 billion overall. Strong demand and high prices for pharmaceutical and petrochemical products contributed to a 4.8% jump in chemical products manufacturing, over the same period in 2002.

## **Manufacturing slows in Canada's largest provinces**

The lacklustre performance of 2003 was concentrated in Canada's two largest manufacturing economies, Ontario and Quebec, in addition to British Columbia, and was only partly offset by improvements in the remaining provinces and the territories. Alberta led the majority of provinces reporting higher shipments for the year.

## **Shipments weaken in Ontario and Quebec**

A marked slowdown in motor vehicle and parts manufacturing, coupled with the electrical blackout of August 14, contributed to Ontario's weak standing in 2003. A downturn in production of machinery, and the ongoing malaise of the computer industry also contributed. Total shipments in Ontario slipped 1.7% (-\$4.7 billion) to \$272.9 billion in 2003, following a 3.4% rise in 2002.

Quebec's manufacturers posted shipments of \$119.1 billion, a 2.4% (-\$2.9 billion) drop from 2002. The downturn in the global aviation sector continued to batter Quebec's aerospace products and parts industry. Computer manufacturing also retrenched sharply following a steep decline in 2002. The clothing and textile mills industries reported significant decreases, partially because of the ongoing globalization of these industries.

## **Wood products pull down shipments in British Columbia**

British Columbia rounded out the three provinces reporting lower shipments in 2003. Shipments decreased 2.4% to \$33.4 billion (-\$835 million), following a 0.4% rise in 2002. The prevailing export duties on softwood lumber, coupled with falling prices, contributed to a sharp drop in shipments of wood products. Fewer shipments of transportation equipment and computers also contributed.

## **Alberta improves, leading all provinces**

Following a lacklustre 2002 (-3.4%), manufacturing shipments in Alberta rebounded 5.0% (+\$2.1 billion) to \$43.0 billion, leading all provinces reporting higher shipments. Despite the negative impact of mad cow



disease on the Alberta economy, higher industrial prices partly contributed to the improvement in 2003. The petroleum, fabricated metal products and chemical products industries led Alberta's manufacturing sector in 2003.

The wood products and chemical products industries contributed to a robust 2003 for Saskatchewan manufacturers. Total shipments were up 3.7% (+\$265 million) to \$7.5 billion, following a 1.3% increase in 2002.

Manitoba's diversified manufacturing sector contributed to a relatively stable year. Shipments edged up 0.9% (+\$101 million) to \$11.6 billion. Increases in fabricated metal products and chemical manufacturing led all industries.

### **Atlantic Canada posts strong gains**

For the second consecutive year, the Atlantic Provinces reported increases in manufacturing activity. Led by a 3.4% (+\$428 million) jump in New Brunswick, shipments ended the year at \$13.1 billion. Meanwhile, manufacturing in Nova Scotia improved 1.8% (+\$155 million) to \$8.8 billion, while Newfoundland and Labrador reported a healthy gain of 6.8% (+\$151 million) to \$2.4 billion.

Prince Edward Island manufacturers posted shipments of \$1.3 billion, up 1.2% (+\$16 million)

in 2003. This is well off the province's gain of 9.5% last year.

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

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2101.**

The December 2003 issue of the *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001-XIE, \$17/\$158) 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.

All data are benchmarked to the *1998 Annual Survey of Manufactures*.

Data from the January 2004 Monthly Survey of Manufacturing will be released on March 16.

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](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of the release, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-0600; [kowarus@statcan.ca](mailto:kowarus@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

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## 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	
December 2002	42,998	-0.9	63,161	0.3	44,820	-2.8	41,690	-3.1	1.47
January 2003	44,520	3.5	62,929	-0.4	43,123	-3.8	42,823	2.7	1.41
February 2003	43,901	-1.4	63,307	0.6	42,807	-0.7	43,584	1.8	1.44
March 2003	44,070	0.4	63,368	0.1	42,616	-0.4	43,879	0.7	1.44
April 2003	42,953	-2.5	63,898	0.8	41,630	-2.3	41,967	-4.4	1.49
May 2003	42,285	-1.6	63,358	-0.8	40,057	-3.8	40,711	-3.0	1.50
June 2003	42,128	-0.4	62,635	-1.1	39,504	-1.4	41,576	2.1	1.49
July 2003	42,897	1.8	62,085	-0.9	38,972	-1.3	42,365	1.9	1.45
August 2003	40,659	-5.2	61,113	-1.6	38,318	-1.7	40,005	-5.6	1.50
September 2003	42,881	5.5	60,365	-1.2	38,593	0.7	43,157	7.9	1.41
October 2003	42,473	-1.0	59,978	-0.6	37,544	-2.7	41,424	-4.0	1.41
November 2003	42,278	-0.5	59,984	0.0	37,018	-1.4	41,752	0.8	1.42
December 2003	42,706	1.0	59,795	-0.3	36,717	-0.8	42,405	1.6	1.40

## Manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
December 2002	35,740	1.4	59,410	0.0	42,967	-2.8	34,511	-1.2
January 2003	36,284	1.5	59,376	-0.1	41,307	-3.9	34,624	0.3
February 2003	35,825	-1.3	59,728	0.6	41,027	-0.7	35,546	2.7
March 2003	35,735	-0.3	59,873	0.2	40,886	-0.3	35,593	0.1
April 2003	34,914	-2.3	60,409	0.9	39,950	-2.3	33,979	-4.5
May 2003	34,350	-1.6	59,963	-0.7	38,451	-3.8	32,850	-3.3
June 2003	34,328	-0.1	59,323	-1.1	37,904	-1.4	33,781	2.8
July 2003	34,547	0.6	58,864	-0.8	37,383	-1.4	34,025	0.7
August 2003	33,802	-2.2	58,053	-1.4	36,659	-1.9	33,078	-2.8
September 2003	35,097	3.8	57,205	-1.5	36,943	0.8	35,381	7.0
October 2003	34,718	-1.1	56,869	-0.6	35,826	-3.0	33,601	-5.0
November 2003	34,809	0.3	56,881	0.0	35,299	-1.5	34,283	2.0
December 2003	35,020	0.6	56,729	-0.3	34,938	-1.0	34,660	1.1



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Export and import price indexes

December 2003

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 December 2003 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 December 2003. 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 December 2003 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade* (65-001-XIB, \$15/\$151) 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 Jocelyne Elibani (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

### Fruit and vegetable production

2003

Data from the 2003 Fall Fruit and Vegetable Survey are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0009 and 001-0013.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3407.**

These data will appear in the February 2004 issue of *Fruit and Vegetable Production* (22-003-XIB, \$25/\$50), available soon. See *How to order products*. The data are made available on the Internet twice a year in February and June. A print-on-demand service is also available

at a different price. It can be ordered directly from our website, or by calling 1-800-267-6677.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bill Parsons (613-951-8727), Agriculture Division. ■

### Steel primary forms — weekly data

Week ending February 7, 2004 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending February 7 totalled 273 711 metric tonnes, down 10.2% from 304 775 tonnes a week earlier and 9.6% from 302 693 tonnes in the same week of 2003.

The year-to-date total as of February 7 was 1 594 301 tonnes, down 2.5% from 1 635 131 tonnes in the same period of 2003.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2131.**

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. ■

### Coal production

2003 (preliminary)

Data on the volume and value of coal production by province are now available for 2003.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2177.**

For more information, to order data, 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](mailto:energ@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Footwear statistics

Semi-annual period ending December 2003

Data on footwear statistics are now available for December 2003.

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**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0011.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2119.**

The December 2003 issue of *Footwear Statistics*, Vol. 78, no 2 (33-002-XIB, \$7/\$12) 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. ■

## NEW PRODUCTS

**Footwear Statistics**, period ending December 2003,  
Vol. 78, no. 2  
Catalogue number 33-002-XIB (\$7/\$12).

**New Motor Vehicle Sales**, December 2003, Vol. 75,  
no. 12  
Catalogue number 63-007-XIB (\$14/\$133).

**Canadian International Merchandise Trade**,  
December 2003, Vol. 57, no. 12  
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Thursday, June 9, 1997  
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
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- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Changes in the mode of urban transit. Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 4.5 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 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
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### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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**RELEASE DATES: FEBRUARY 16 TO 20**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
18	<b>Canada's international transactions in securities</b>	December 2003
18	<b>Livestock statistics</b>	January 1, 2004
19	<b>Leading Indicators</b>	January 2004
19	<b>Consumer Price Index</b>	2003 Annual
19	<b>Travel between Canada and other countries</b>	December 2003
20	<b>Consumer Price Index</b>	January 2004
20	<b>Port activity</b>	2002