Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Français 11-001-XIF) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, February 4, 2004
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

NEW PRODUCTS 7

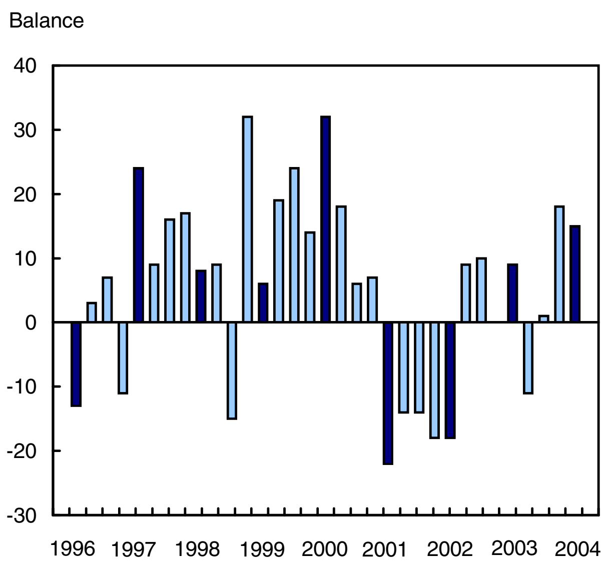
MAJOR RELEASES

Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries

January 2004

Manufacturers were cautiously optimistic regarding the outlook for the first quarter of 2004, after being dealt a series of economic blows in 2003, as a result of SARS, BSE (mad cow disease) and a major power blackout. With these events fading into the past, business confidence improved and greater satisfaction was expressed for production, finished products inventory levels and orders received. However, manufacturers still expressed some concern with low levels of unfilled orders.

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



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

Manufacturers still expect to increase production

In January, 30% of manufacturers stated they would increase production in the first quarter, while 15% expected to decrease production, leaving the balance of opinion at +15. This was a slight decrease from the +18 posted in October. Led by producers in the primary metal and transportation equipment industries, 16 of the 21 manufacturing industries contributed to the positive balance. Manufacturers in all provinces were positive about production prospects for the coming three months.

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 increase.

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

Satisfaction with level of orders received continues to climb

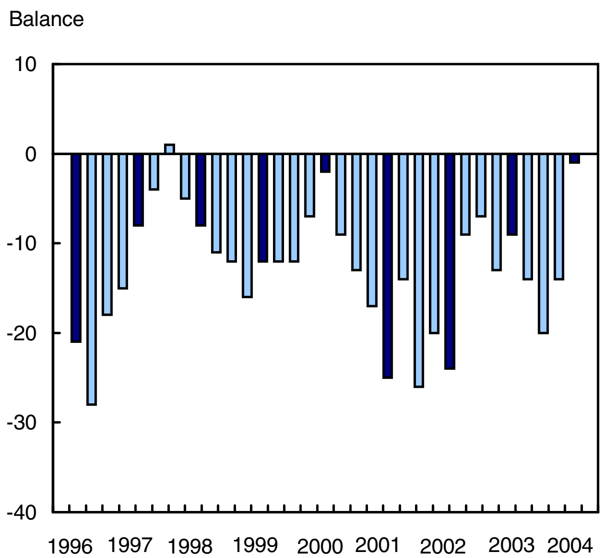
The January balance of opinion on the current level of orders received increased 11 points to +14. The proportion of manufacturers who stated that orders received were increasing was 24% in January, compared with 20% in October. This was the highest positive balance posted for orders received since April 2000, when it was +21. Again, producers in the transportation equipment and primary metal industries were the major contributors to the improved balance. According to the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, new orders have increased in four of the last six months, and the trend continued to gradually improve. New orders in November, at $41.9 billion, were up 1.0% from October.

Manufacturers less concerned with finished product inventories

In January, 85% of manufacturers reported that the current level of finished product inventories was about right, 8% said inventories were too high and 7% said they were too low, leaving the balance of opinion at -1, a 13-point improvement from October. According to

November's Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, finished product inventories stood at $18.9 billion, their lowest level since July 2002 and the seventh decrease in a row.

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



Level of unfilled orders a source of concern

With 10% of manufacturers stating a higher-than-normal backlog and 23% expressing a lower-than-normal backlog, the balance of opinion concerning the current level of unfilled orders stood at -13 in January, 1-point lower than October. Producers in the transportation equipment, machinery and fabricated metal product industries were the major contributors to the negative balance.

According to the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, manufacturers posted a 0.8% drop in unfilled orders in November to $37.2 billion, their lowest level in over six years.

Manufacturers less positive about employment prospects

The balance of opinion for employment prospects for the next three months slipped 3 points to -2 in January. While 83% of manufacturers stated that they would keep or add to their workforce, 17% indicated that they expected to decrease employment in the coming quarter. According to the year-end report of the Labour Force Survey, manufacturers hired fewer employees in 2003. Since November 2002, the number of manufacturing jobs declined by 82,000. On a monthly basis, manufacturing employment edged down 0.2% (-4,100 jobs) in December, following November's 1.0% boost. At year's end, there were just under 2.3 million people employed in Canadian factories.

Fewer manufacturers reported production impediments

The number of manufacturers reporting no production impediments jumped 9 points to 84% in October. The proportion reporting a shortage of skilled labour decreased 3 points to 5%. A shortage of unskilled labour was reported by 2% of manufacturers. Other impediments reported by 4% of manufacturers included the continuing appreciation of the Canadian dollar, a shortage of orders and the impact of the softwood lumber dispute.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2152.

Business Conditions Survey data for April 2004 will be released on April 29, 2004.

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; *claude.robillard@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division

□

Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing Industries

	January 2003	April 2003	July 2003	October 2003	January 2004
	seasonally adjusted				
Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:					
About the same (%)	63	51	57	50	55
Higher (%)	23	19	22	34	30
Lower (%)	14	30	21	16	15
Balance	9	-11	1	18	15
Orders received are:					
About the same (%)	71	64	63	63	66
Rising (%)	15	10	15	20	24
Declining (%)	14	26	22	17	10
Balance	1	-16	-7	3	14
Present backlog of unfilled orders is:					
About normal (%)	70	66	59	62	67
Higher than Normal (%)	12	7	6	13	10
Lower than Normal (%)	18	27	35	25	23
Balance	-6	-20	-29	-12	-13
Finished product inventory on hand is:					
About right (%)	83	80	72	76	85
Too low (%)	4	3	4	5	7
Too high[1](%)	13	17	24	19	8
Balance	-9	-14	-20	-14	-1
Employment during the next three months will:					
Change little (%)	74	69	67	69	68
Increase (%)	13	13	13	16	15
Decrease (%)	13	18	20	15	17
Balance	0	-5	-7	1	-2
	unadjusted				
	%				
Sources of production difficulties:					
Working capital shortage	3	3	4	4	3
Skilled labour shortage	6	5	7	8	5
Unskilled labour shortage	1	1	2	3	2
Raw material shortage	3	4	3	3	3
Other difficulties	2	3	5	6	4
No difficulties	85	84	79	75	84

1 *No evident seasonality.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

December 2003 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 8 537 500 cubic metres in December, up 617 900 cubic metres or 7.8% from December 2002. Sales increased in five of the seven major product groups, led by diesel fuel oil, which registered the largest volumetric increase, up 236 000 cubic metres or 13.8%. Heavy fuel oil increased by 192 300 cubic metres or 27.1%.

Sales of regular non-leaded gasoline advanced 4.2%, while sales of mid-grade fell 4.1% and premium rose 1.2% from December 2002.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	December 2002[r]	December 2003[p]	December 2002 to December 2003
	'000 of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**7 919.6**	**8 537.5**	**7.8**
Motor gasoline	3 274.4	3 395.7	3.7
Diesel fuel oil	1 713.0	1 949.0	13.8
Light fuel oil	688.8	671.6	-2.5
Heavy fuel oil	708.5	900.8	27.1
Aviation turbo fuels	437.8	442.2	1.0
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	408.5	362.4	-11.3
All other refined products	688.5	816.0	18.5

	Jan. to Dec. 2002[r]	Jan. to Dec. 2003[p]	Jan.–Dec. 2002 to Jan.–Dec. 2003
	'000 of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**94 090.7**	**98 483.1**	**4.7**
Motor gasoline	39 599.6	40 213.1	1.5
Diesel fuel oil	22 542.9	23 723.8	5.2
Light fuel oil	4 997.5	5 280.8	5.7
Heavy fuel oil	6 610.9	8 677.0	31.3
Aviation turbo fuels	6 005.1	5 952.1	-0.9
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	4 632.5	4 448.1	-4.0
All other refined products	9 702.2	10 188.2	5.0

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*
1 *Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.*

Year-to-date sales of refined petroleum products totalled 98 483 100 cubic metres up 4 392 400 cubic metres or 4.7% from the same period of 2002. Sales rose in five of seven major petroleum product groups, with the largest volumetric increase in heavy fuel oils, up 2 066 100 cubic metres or 31.3%. Year-to-date sales of motor gasoline increased 613 500 cubic metres or 1.5%.

Available on CANSIM: table 134-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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. ■

Chicken production

2003 (preliminary estimates)

Preliminary estimates of chicken production for 2003 are now available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5039.

Final estimates of chicken production will be released in the publication *Production of Poultry and Eggs, 2003* (23-202-XIB, $31), available in May 2004. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandy Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; *sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Coal and coke statistics

November 2003

Data on coal and coke are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2003 and 2147.

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. ■

Coal mining

2001

Data on coal mining are now available for 2001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2177.

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. ■

Annual Survey of Water Carriers
2001

In 2001, 106 for-hire marine carriers earned an income of $142 million on revenues of $2.3 billion. Total revenues earned by these carriers were up 3.5% from 2000, while expenses increased just 2.6%. For-hire sector carriers employed 8,048 persons in 2001, 5% more than in 2000, and paid $480 million in salaries and benefits. The main occupations were ships' crews (47%), ships' officers (28%), and office and terminal employees (15%).

Government carriers had revenues of $679 million and expenditures of $732 million in 2001. They employed 6,635 people and paid salaries and benefits of $371 million.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2753.

Data from the Annual Survey of Water Carriers for 2001 are now available. The *Surface and Marine Service Bulletin*, Vol. 20, no. 1 (50-002-XIB, $11) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Robert Larocque (1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; *transportationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Income Research Paper Series: Exploration of Methodological Issues in the Development of the Market Basket Measure of Low Income for Human Resources Development Canada, 2000, no. 1
Catalogue number 75F0002MIE2004001
(free).

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.

How to order products

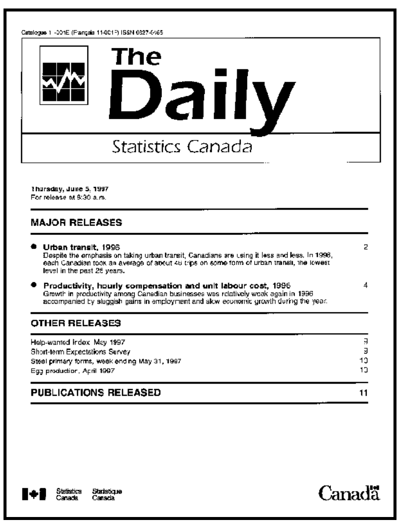
Order products by phone:
Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:	**1-800-267-6677**
From other countries call:	**1-613-951-7277**
To fax your order:	**1-877-287-4369**
Address changes or account inquiries:	**1-800-700-1033**

To order a product by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet: write to *infostats@statcan.ca* or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website *(www.statcan.ca)*. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.


Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

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.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997	9
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	10
Egg production, April 1997	10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED — 11

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at *http://www.statcan.ca*. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to *listproc@statcan.ca.* Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".