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MAJOR RELEASES

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NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

Industrial product and raw materials price indexes

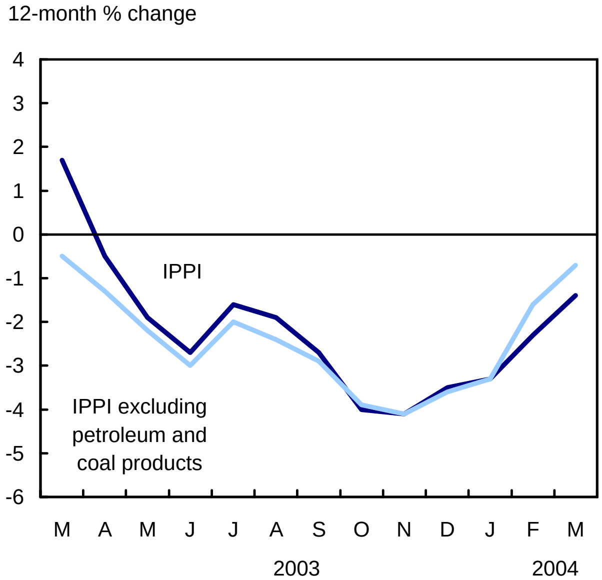
March 2004

Manufacturers' prices were up 0.5% in March following an increase of 1.9% in February. Compared with March 2003, prices fell 1.4%, largely because of the effect of the Canadian dollar against the US dollar.

Without the dollar's influence, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) would have risen 1.6% rather than falling 1.4% from March 2003.

On a monthly basis, pulp and paper products increased 1.7%, mainly as a result of strong demand for pulp and newsprint paper. Higher prices for petroleum and coal products (+1.0%), metal fabricated products (+1.6%), meat, fish and dairy products (+0.9%) and fruit, vegetable and feed products (+0.9%) also contributed to the monthly increase.

Petroleum product prices still influence the IPPI



Prices for primary metal products remained unchanged from February as increases for steel, aluminum, copper, silver and lead products were offset by decreases for nickel products.

Lumber and other wood products increased slightly (+0.1%) as a result of higher prices for softwood lumber (+0.5%). Lower prices for particleboard (-1.9%) dampened the increase.

On a 12-month basis, March represents the 12th consecutive month of decline in the IPPI. Lower prices for motor vehicles and other transport equipment (-7.4%), electrical and communication products (-5.9%), chemical products (-2.8%), as well as pulp and paper products (-2.4%), were the major contributors to the 12-month decline in the IPPI.

The petroleum and coal products group continued to have a strong influence on the 12-month change in the IPPI with a decrease of 9.8%. If petroleum and coal product prices had been excluded, the IPPI would have declined 0.7% on a 12-month basis.

Higher prices for primary metal products (+10.2%), lumber products (+13.8%), metal fabricated products (+3.1%), fruit, vegetable and feed products (+2.2%) and tobacco products (+7.1%) partially offset the 12-month decline.

Note to readers

Starting with the January 2004 release, the monthly average exchange rate as determined by the Bank of Canada is used to convert prices received in currencies other than the Canadian dollar. Previously, the exchange rate conversion of such prices was carried out using the rate for the 15th of the month. The decision to switch to the monthly rate reflects the fact that the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) and Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI are intended to measure the change in the average monthly price for these goods. The monthly average exchange rate is a better estimator of the actual exchange rates used in transactions than a point-in-time exchange rate. The estimated impact of this change is small at the total level. The 12-month change is 0.1% more than it would have been had the monthly average exchange rate been used to calculate the March 2003 index.

*The **Industrial Product Price Index** reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time a good leaves the plant and the time the final user takes possession of it, including the transportation, wholesale, and retail costs.*

Canadian producers export many goods. They often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp, paper, and wood products. Therefore, a rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against its US counterpart affects the IPPI.

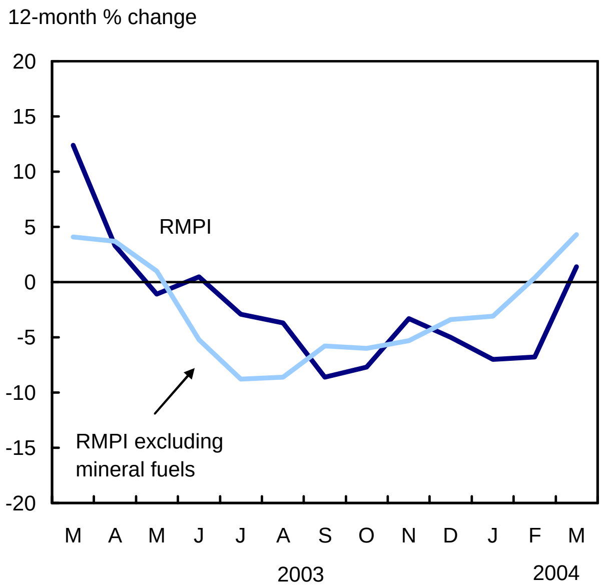
*The **Raw Materials Price Index** reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in a world market. Unlike the IPPI, the RMPI includes goods not produced in Canada.*

Higher crude oil prices continue to push up prices of raw materials

On a monthly basis, raw materials prices were up 4.5% from February. Mineral fuels were responsible for most of the monthly increase in the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI), with prices rising 7.1%.

Crude oil prices rose 9.1% from February as a result of lower inventories and strong demand. Prices for animal and animal products rose 3.0% with prices for cattle for slaughter increasing 7.8% and those for hogs for slaughter by 7.7%. Higher prices for non-ferrous metals (+2.3%), vegetable products (+2.8%), as well as ferrous materials (+2.3%), also contributed to the monthly increase.

Crude oil prices continue to influence the RMPI



Manufacturers paid 1.4% more for their raw materials than they did in March 2003, compared with a decrease of 6.8% in February. Prices for non-ferrous metals rose 31.7% from a year ago, mainly because of higher prices for copper, lead and zinc. Ferrous materials prices rose 31.9% compared with March 2003 with iron and steel scrap prices rising a record 55.3%. Higher prices for non-metallic minerals (+2.9%) also contributed to the 12-month increase in the RMPI.

Mineral fuels were down 1.8% from a year ago with crude oil prices declining 1.4%. If mineral fuels had been excluded, the RMPI would have increased 4.3%.

Prices for animals and animal products were down 6.2%, with cattle and calves for slaughter prices declining 24.4% from a year ago. Lower prices were also observed for wood products (-3.5%) and vegetable products (-2.4%).

The IPPI (1997=100) stood at 107.7 in March, up from its revised level of 107.2 in February. The RMPI (1997=100) was 126.3 in March up from its revised level of 120.9 in February.

Impact of exchange rate

Between February and March, the value of the US dollar against the Canadian dollar remained almost unchanged with a slight drop of 0.1%. As a result, the total IPPI excluding the effect of the exchange rate would have remained at 0.5%.

However, on a 12-month basis, the Canadian dollar is much stronger. Consequently, the IPPI excluding the effect of the exchange rate would have increased 1.6% rather than declining 1.4% from March 2003 to March 2004.

Prices for intermediate goods increase from a year ago

Prices for intermediate goods were up 0.6% from February. Higher prices for pulp and paper products; metal fabricated products; fruit, vegetable and feed products; meat, fish and dairy products; and chemical products were the major contributors to the increase.

Producers of intermediate goods received 0.3% more for their goods in March 2004 than in March 2003. Higher prices for primary metal products, lumber products, metal fabricated products, and fruit, vegetable and feed products were mainly responsible for the annual increase.

These increases were partly offset by lower prices for petroleum products, motor vehicles, chemical products, electrical and communication products as well as pulp and paper products.

Intermediate goods, sometimes referred to as input goods, are goods that are generally bought by manufacturers to be used further on in the production process, that is, to make other goods.

Finished goods decrease again from a year ago

On a monthly basis, prices for finished goods were up 0.3% from February. Higher prices for petroleum products; meat, fish and dairy products; chemical products; and lumber products were responsible for this monthly rise.

Declining prices for motor vehicles, petroleum products, electrical and communication products, machinery and equipment, as well as meat, fish and dairy products, pushed the 12-month prices down 3.7% from March 2003.

These decreases were partly offset by higher prices for tobacco products; fruit, vegetable and feed products; beverages; furniture and fixtures; and chemical products.

Finished goods are those generally purchased for the purpose of either consumption or investment. Most of the products from the food and feed category end up in the hands of consumers. Most capital goods are equipment and machinery generally bought by companies, government agencies, or governments. Much of the remainder are bought by consumers.

Available on CANSIM: tables 329-0038 to 329-0049 and 330-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2306 and 2318.

The March 2004 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011-XIE, $19/$175; 62-011-XPE, $24/$233) will be available in May.

The industrial product and raw material price indexes for April 2004 will be released on May 28.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*) or Danielle Gouin (613-951-3375; *danielle.gouin@statcan.ca*), Prices Division.

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Industrial product price indexes
(1997=100)

	Relative importance	March 2003	February 2004[r]	March 2004[p]	March 2003 to March 2004	February to March 2004
					% change	
Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)	**100.00**	**109.2**	**107.2**	**107.7**	**-1.4**	**0.5**
IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products	**94.32**	**106.3**	**105.2**	**105.6**	**-0.7**	**0.4**
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	5.78	110.8	108.8	109.8	-0.9	0.9
Fruit, vegetables, feeds and other food products	5.99	104.0	105.4	106.3	2.2	0.9
Beverages	1.57	116.5	119.3	119.4	2.5	0.1
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.63	156.0	167.0	167.0	7.1	0.0
Rubber, leather and plastic fabricated products	3.30	106.5	106.0	106.2	-0.3	0.2
Textile products	1.58	100.4	98.6	98.6	-1.8	0.0
Knitted products and clothing	1.51	104.0	104.3	104.1	0.1	-0.2
Lumber and other wood products	6.30	87.9	99.9	100.0	13.8	0.1
Furniture and fixtures	1.59	108.5	110.6	110.6	1.9	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.23	105.2	101.0	102.7	-2.4	1.7
Printing and publishing	1.70	114.3	112.5	112.5	-1.6	0.0
Primary metal products	7.80	98.2	108.2	108.2	10.2	0.0
Metal fabricated products	4.11	107.8	109.4	111.1	3.1	1.6
Machinery and equipment	5.48	106.7	105.1	105.1	-1.5	0.0
Motor vehicles and other transport equipment	22.16	110.7	102.5	102.5	-7.4	0.0
Electrical and communications products	5.77	98.7	92.9	92.9	-5.9	0.0
Non-metallic mineral products	1.98	109.7	110.3	110.3	0.5	0.0
Petroleum and coal products[1]	5.68	162.7	145.2	146.7	-9.8	1.0
Chemicals and chemical products	7.07	113.8	110.2	110.6	-2.8	0.4
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.40	107.9	108.0	108.2	0.3	0.2
Miscellaneous non-manufactured products	0.38	92.3	114.7	119.9	29.9	4.5
Intermediate goods[2]	**60.14**	**106.8**	**106.5**	**107.1**	**0.3**	**0.6**
First-stage intermediate goods[3]	7.71	110.2	114.2	114.0	3.4	-0.2
Second-stage intermediate goods[4]	52.43	106.3	105.3	106.1	-0.2	0.8
Finished goods[5]	**39.86**	**112.8**	**108.3**	**108.6**	**-3.7**	**0.3**
Finished foods and feeds	8.50	110.7	111.1	111.4	0.6	0.3
Capital equipment	11.73	110.1	104.4	104.4	-5.2	0.0
All other finished goods	19.63	115.3	109.5	109.9	-4.7	0.4

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*
1 *This index is estimated for the current month.*
2 *Intermediate goods are goods used principally to produce other goods.*
3 *First-stage intermediate goods are items used most frequently to produce other intermediate goods.*
4 *Second-stage intermediate goods are items most commonly used to produce final goods.*
5 *Finished goods are goods most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.*

Raw materials price indexes
(1997=100)

	Relative importance	March 2003	February 2004[r]	March 2004[p]	March 2003 to March 2004	February to March 2004
					% change	
Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)	**100.00**	**124.5**	**120.9**	**126.3**	**1.4**	**4.5**
Mineral fuels	35.16	185.5	170.1	182.2	-1.8	7.1
Vegetable products	10.28	98.2	93.2	95.8	-2.4	2.8
Animals and animal products	20.30	110.1	100.3	103.3	-6.2	3.0
Wood	15.60	85.6	81.9	82.6	-3.5	0.9
Ferrous materials	3.36	99.7	128.5	131.5	31.9	2.3
Non-ferrous metals	12.93	81.8	105.3	107.7	31.7	2.3
Non-metallic minerals	2.38	115.7	119.0	119.0	2.9	0.0
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	**64.84**	**96.3**	**98.2**	**100.4**	**4.3**	**2.2**

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

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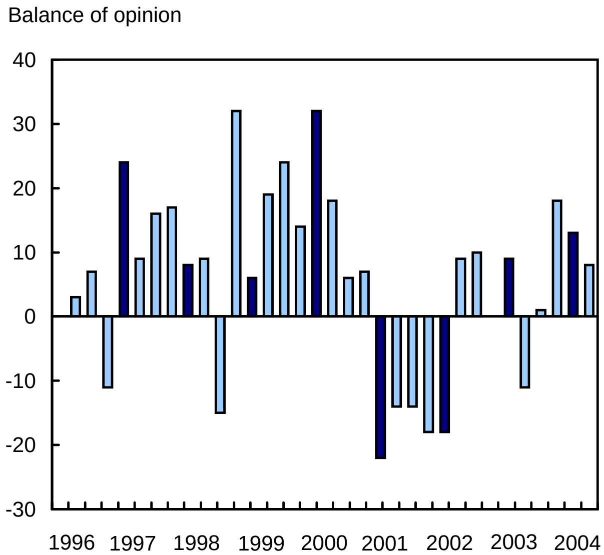
Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries

April 2004

Uncertainty seems to best describe manufacturers' confidence regarding the outlook for the second quarter of 2004. Although remaining positive, production prospects for the coming quarter were slightly lower and satisfaction with the current level of unfilled orders was less negative. However, manufacturers indicated more concern with lower levels of new orders and rising levels of finished product inventories.

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



Producers in the primary metals, fabricated metal products and machinery industries expressed major concerns about steel shortages, higher prices and increasing exports of scrap metal to China.

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

Manufacturers remain positive about production prospects

In April, 23% of manufacturers stated they would increase production in the second quarter of 2004, while 15% expected to decrease production, leaving the balance of opinion at +8. This was a decrease from the +13 posted in January. Led by producers in the chemical and machinery industries, 16 of the 21 manufacturing industries continued to contribute to the positive balance.

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 a voluntary survey conducted in January, April, July and October with the majority of responses 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.

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

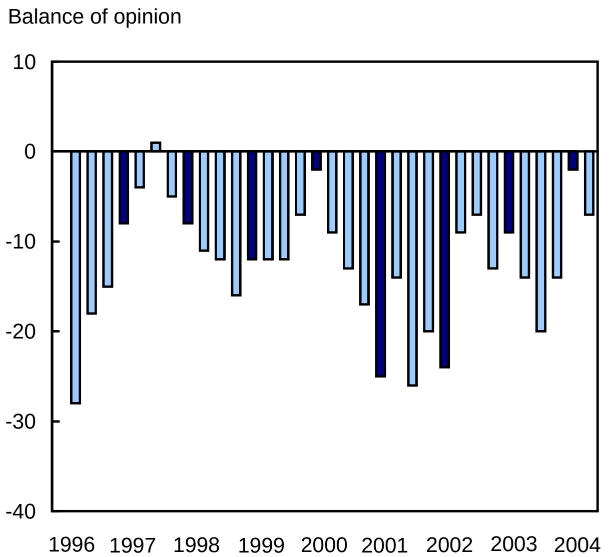
Satisfaction with level of orders drops

Following positive balances in the previous two quarters, the April balance of opinion on the current level of orders received dropped 15 points to -2. The number of manufacturers who stated that orders received were decreasing went to 22% in April from 11% in January. Producers in the computer and electronic products and transportation equipment industries were the major contributors to the negative balance.

Manufacturers express more concern with finished product inventories

In April, 73% of manufacturers reported that the current level of finished product inventories was about right, an 11 percentage point drop from January. Some 17% stated that inventories were too high and 10% said inventories were too low, leaving the balance of opinion at -7, a five-point decrease from January. Manufacturers in the transportation equipment and wood product industries were the major contributors to the lower balance. According to February's Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, finished-product inventories stood at $20.1 billion, their lowest level since September 2002 and the 10th decrease in a row.

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



Level of unfilled orders improving slightly

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

According to the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, manufacturers posted a 0.2% increase in unfilled orders in February to $35.6 billion, the first increase since May 2001.

Manufacturers employment prospects change little

The balance of opinion for employment prospects for the next three months was up one point to -1 in April. While 85% of manufacturers stated that they would keep or add to their work force, 15% indicated that they expected to decrease employment in the coming quarter. According to the March Labour Force Survey employment in manufacturing was little changed for the fourth consecutive month, leaving losses since November 2002 (when the downward trend started) at 76,000 (-3.2%).

More manufacturers report production impediments

The number of manufacturers reporting no production impediments slipped three points to 81% in April. The number of producers reporting raw material shortages jumped from 3% in January to 7% in April. This increase was mostly felt in primary metals, fabricated metal products and machinery industries, where manufacturers expressed concerns about steel shortages, higher prices and increasing exports of scrap metal to China, which is experiencing a construction boom. The proportion reporting a shortage of skilled labour remained at 5%.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2152.

Data on the Business Conditions Survey for July 2004 will be released on July 30.

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

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Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries

	April 2003	July 2003	October 2003	January 2004	April 2004
	seasonally adjusted				
Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:					
About the same (%)	51	57	50	57	62
Higher (%)	19	22	34	28	23
Lower (%)	30	21	16	15	15
Balance of opinion	-11	1	18	13	8
Orders received are:					
About the same (%)	64	63	63	65	58
Rising (%)	10	15	20	24	20
Declining (%)	26	22	17	11	22
Balance of opinion	-16	-7	3	13	-2
Present backlog of unfilled orders is:					
About normal (%)	66	59	62	68	74
Higher than normal (%)	7	6	13	11	13
Lower than normal (%)	27	35	25	21	13
Balance of opinion	-20	-29	-12	-10	0
Finished product inventory on hand is:					
About right (%)	80	72	76	84	73
Too low (%)	3	4	5	7	10
Too high[1] (%)	17	24	19	9	17
Balance of opinion	-14	-20	-14	-2	-7
Employment during the next three months will:					
Change little (%)	69	67	69	68	71
Increase (%)	13	13	16	15	14
Decrease (%)	18	20	15	17	15
Balance of opinion	-5	-7	1	-2	-1
	unadjusted				
	%				
Sources of production difficulties:					
Working capital shortage	3	4	4	3	3
Skilled labour shortage	5	7	8	5	5
Unskilled labour shortage	1	2	3	2	2
Raw material shortage	4	3	3	3	7
Other difficulties	3	5	6	4	3
No difficulties	84	79	75	84	81

1 *No evident seasonality.*

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OTHER RELEASES

Payroll employment, earnings and hours
February 2004 (preliminary)

The average weekly earnings of payroll employees increased 0.9% in February and is 1.9% higher than February 2003. The logging and forestry, management of companies, education, and mining industries recorded the strongest growth in the past 12 months, while transport and warehousing registered the largest decline.

In February, average hours for hourly paid workers rose 0.5 hours with a strong increase in services-producing industries. There was little change in average hourly earnings for hourly paid workers.

The number of payroll employees declined for the second consecutive month. A small drop of 14,500 in February follows a decline of 37,300 in January. The largest losses in February were in manufacturing (-11,800) and health and social services (-9,400).

Quebec showed the largest employment drop in February (-13,100), while Ontario (+7,900) and Alberta (+5,700) recorded the largest increases.

Note: Certain changes have been made to the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH). With the release of data for the January 2004 reference month, current and historical estimates are published on the basis of the 2002 version of North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). This change affects only estimates for industry groupings within the Construction (NAICS 23) and Information and Culture (NAICS 51) industries. In addition to the switch to NAICS 2002, there is a slight change to the definitions for the durable and non-durable goods groupings of manufacturing. As per the normal SEPH annual revision cycle, historical corrections to other series are available with this release. A concordance table between the NAICS 1997 and 2002 versions is available. To enquire about the concordance table, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; *labour@statcan.ca*), Labour Statistics Division.

Available on CANSIM: tables 281-0023 to 281-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2612.

Detailed industry data, data by size of enterprise based on employment, and other labour market indicators are offered in the monthly publication *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002-XIB, $26/$257), which will soon be available.

Data on payroll employment, earnings and hours for March 2004 will be released May 26.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; *labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Frindt (613-951-4069), Labour Statistics Division. □

Average weekly earnings for all employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	February 2003	January 2004[r]	February 2004[p]	January to February 2004	February 2003 to February 2004
	seasonally adjusted				
	$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	**686.05**	**692.81**	**699.15**	**0.9**	**1.9**
Forestry, logging and support	842.28	874.77	893.78	2.2	6.1
Mining and oil and gas	1,176.28	1,221.01	1,235.62	1.2	5.0
Utilities	1,069.33	1,064.45	1,059.17	-0.5	-1.0
Construction	807.90	824.87	829.44	0.6	2.7
Manufacturing	841.39	847.57	855.01	0.9	1.6
Wholesale trade	788.87	790.61	793.79	0.4	0.6
Retail trade	438.02	444.27	445.25	0.2	1.7
Transportation and warehousing	769.64	749.79	752.54	0.4	-2.2
Information and cultural industries	828.43	817.34	823.95	0.8	-0.5
Finance and insurance	875.90	875.80	873.00	-0.3	-0.3
Real estate and rental and leasing	593.38	593.79	609.25	2.6	2.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	912.81	922.84	925.99	0.3	1.4
Management of companies and enterprises	848.93	888.17	896.30	0.9	5.6
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	538.31	539.40	540.99	0.3	0.5
Educational services	747.8	777.74	788.90	1.4	5.5
Health care and social assistance	606.37	619.57	630.46	1.8	4.0
Arts, entertainment and recreation	421.58	408.89	418.17	2.3	-0.8
Accommodation and food services	276.32	273.33	275.60	0.8	-0.3
Other services (excluding public administration)	515.95	529.86	535.23	1.0	3.7
Public administration	844.26	876.46	873.06	-0.4	3.4
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	629.91	630.69	637.85	1.1	1.3
Prince Edward Island	546.74	551.65	552.48	0.2	1.0
Nova Scotia	595.54	599.94	604.75	0.8	1.5
New Brunswick	613.54	632.41	638.40	0.9	4.1
Quebec	650.07	654.91	659.13	0.6	1.4
Ontario	731.06	735.88	739.22	0.5	1.1
Manitoba	608.34	626.62	639.80	2.1	5.2
Saskatchewan	616.71	634.54	640.38	0.9	3.8
Alberta	707.33	717.77	731.02	1.8	3.3
British Columbia	678.40	685.91	693.62	1.1	2.2
Yukon	764.05	769.54	783.39	1.8	2.5
Northwest Territories[1]	899.51	899.99	915.00	1.7	1.7
Nunavut[1]	780.88	767.08	767.19	0.0	-1.8

r *Revised estimates.*
p *Preliminary estimates.*
1 *Data unadjusted.*

Number of employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	December 2003	January 2004[r]	February 2004[p]	December 2003 to January 2004	January to February 2004
	seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change	
Industrial aggregate	**13,447.9**	**13,410.6**	**13,396.1**	**-0.3**	**-0.1**
Forestry, logging and support	53.1	53.2	52.5	0.2	-1.3
Mining and oil and gas	156.4	153.3	154.1	-2.0	0.5
Utilities	113.7	116.9	115.2	2.8	-1.5
Construction	656.4	657.0	659.0	0.1	0.3
Manufacturing	2,021.4	2,005.8	1,994.0	-0.8	-0.6
Wholesale trade	750.6	749.6	744.6	-0.1	-0.7
Retail trade	1,619.8	1,622.5	1,618.4	0.2	-0.3
Transportation and warehousing	602.5	602.2	599.0	0.0	-0.5
Information and cultural industries	349.0	347.2	347.2	-0.5	0.0
Finance and insurance	574.3	575.0	579.5	0.1	0.8
Real estate and rental and leasing	231.1	229.5	230.6	-0.7	0.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	664.1	663.7	664.9	-0.1	0.2
Management of companies and enterprises	88.2	87.9	89.4	-0.3	1.7
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	616.7	613.9	614.4	-0.5	0.1
Educational services	966.0	958.4	961.1	-0.8	0.3
Health care and social assistance	1,382.9	1,379.4	1,370.0	-0.3	-0.7
Arts, entertainment and recreation	239.1	240.0	240.5	0.4	0.2
Accommodation and food services	941.9	945.4	940.7	0.4	-0.5
Other services (excluding public administration)	506.5	505.0	505.9	-0.3	0.2
Public administration	767.1	765.2	769.6	-0.2	0.6
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	186.7	186.2	185.9	-0.3	-0.2
Prince Edward Island	61.9	61.8	61.5	-0.2	-0.5
Nova Scotia	385.2	381.5	378.6	-1.0	-0.8
New Brunswick	302.7	299.8	297.1	-1.0	-0.9
Quebec	3,182.7	3,179.3	3,166.2	-0.1	-0.4
Ontario	5,220.2	5,223.8	5,231.7	0.1	0.2
Manitoba	523.0	522.5	520.2	-0.1	-0.4
Saskatchewan	400.9	396.6	394.5	-1.1	-0.5
Alberta	1,469.7	1,470.8	1,476.5	0.1	0.4
British Columbia	1,652.0	1,643.0	1,640.9	-0.5	-0.1
Yukon	15.2	15.3	15.3	0.7	0.0
Northwest Territories[1]	22.3	21.6	21.7	-3.1	0.5
Nunavut[1]	11.3	10.8	11.3	-4.4	4.6

r *Revised estimates.*
p *Preliminary estimates.*
1 *Data unadjusted.*

■

Hog inventories

First quarter 2004

Canadian hog producers reduced their inventories marginally during the first quarter of 2004 in the wake of surging exports. Most provinces experienced limited declines.

Inventories dipped to 14.6 million hogs as of April 1, 2004, according to a survey of 2,200 hog producers. That's a drop of 0.4% from January 1, and 0.1% lower than the same time last year.

Exports of hogs, primarily destined for the United States, surged in 2003 following the closure of the US border to cattle and beef products. Numerous countries shut their borders to Canadian beef after a cow in Alberta tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) on May 20, 2003.

Hog exports in 2003 reached an all time high of 7.4 million hogs, most of which were young animals to be fed south of the border. In the seven months of 2003 following the border closure, exports jumped by 48%—some 1.6 million more animals were shipped than during the same period in 2002.

Exports of pork meat rose as countries such as the United States, Japan, Mexico and Australia imported more pork. In 2003, exports climbed 12.7% compared with 2002.

For producers, the stronger Canadian dollar and soft prices partially offset the increased volume of exports. Prices for hogs were weak in much of 2002 and 2003; however, they dropped considerably during the second half of the year, falling over 25% from June to December 2003. This has caused financial strife for many producers. In 2004, prices rallied and are almost back to the June levels.

On March 5, 2004, spurred by rising exports, the National Pork Producers Council in the United States filed for anti-dumping and countervailing duties on Canadian hogs. The applications were made to both the US Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission. These actions add an element of uncertainty to the marketplace. Any dispute would take time to resolve.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3460.

The report entitled, *Hog Statistics* (23-010-XIE, free), is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Plourde (613-951-8716; *robert.plourde@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division.

Hog inventories
April 1, 2004

	Breeding		Market hogs				Total hogs	
	2004	2003 to 2004	2004	2003 to 2004	2004	2003 to 2004	2004	2003 to 2004
			Under 20 kg		20 kg and over			
	'000 head	% change	'000 head	% change	'000 head	% change	'000 head	% change
Canada	**1,620**	**2.1**	**4,538**	**3.0**	**8,400**	**-2.1**	**14,558**	**-0.1**
Atlantic	35	-2.3	108	-0.9	222	-1.0	365	-1.1
Quebec	423	0.0	1,310	1.9	2,487	-3.3	4,220	-1.4
Ontario	445	4.3	1,165	3.8	2,051	-4.7	3,660	-1.1
East	**902**	**2.0**	**2,583**	**2.6**	**4,759**	**-3.8**	**8,245**	**-1.2**
Manitoba	354	3.7	981	7.9	1,505	0.4	2,840	3.3
Saskatchewan	131	2.3	326	3.4	819	6.6	1,275	5.3
Alberta	212	-0.7	600	-2.4	1,218	-4.2	2,030	-3.3
British Columbia	20	7.4	49	1.6	99	8.9	168	6.5
West	**717**	**2.2**	**1,955**	**3.6**	**3,641**	**0.3**	**6,313**	**1.5**

Note: *Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.*

■

Stocks of Frozen and Chilled Meats

April 2004

Total frozen and chilled red meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of April amounted to 87 508 metric tonnes, down 2% from 89 452 tonnes in March and down 2% from 89 415 tonnes in April 2003. Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on April 1 totalled 47 998 metric tonnes, down 10% from April 1, 2003.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0005 and 003-0041.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3423.

The April 2004 issue of *Stocks of Frozen and Chilled Meats* (23-009-XIE, free) is available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; *barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Crude oil and natural gas

February 2004 (preliminary)

Crude oil production in February 2004 rose 15.6%, the 10th consecutive monthly year-over-year increase. Production increases from Alberta oil sands and offshore Newfoundland and Labrador were the main contributors to this gain. Crude oil exports, which accounted for 60.1% of total production, rose 14.9%, the ninth consecutive monthly year-over-year increase.

Crude oil and natural gas

	February 2003	February 2004	February 2003 to February 2004
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons[1]			
Production	10 463.2	12 099.2	15.6
Exports	6 321.8	7 265.9	14.9
Imports[2]	3 851.2	4 319.8	12.2
Refinery receipts	8 199.5	8 522.1	3.9
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas[3]			
Marketable production	13 745.5	14 114.5	2.7
Exports	8 490.4	9 136.8	7.6
Canadian domestic sales[4]	8 433.5	8 257.2	-2.1
	Jan. to Feb. 2003	Jan. to Feb. 2004	Jan.–Feb. 2003 to Jan.– Feb. 2004
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons[1]			
Production	22 340.4	24 701.1	10.6
Exports	13 576.8	15 476.6	14.0
Imports[2]	8 305.7	8 947.5	7.7
Refinery receipts	17 315.3	17 688.5	2.2
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas[3]			
Marketable production	29 162.7	29 309.3	0.5
Exports	18 038.7	18 840.8	4.4
Canadian domestic sales[4]	17 695.7	18 029.5	1.9

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.*

The year-to-date production of crude oil rose 10.6% over the same period last year, while crude oil exports were also on the rise, increasing 14.0% over the same period.

Marketable natural gas production rose by 2.7% over February 2003. Natural Gas exports, which accounted for 64.7% of total production, increased 7.6%, while domestic sales decreased 2.1%.

Year-to-date marketable production of natural gas increased by 0.5%, while exports and domestic sales rose 4.4% and 1.9% respectively.

Note: The increases in production and exports were partly the result of the extra trading day in February 2004.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

Preliminary data at the provincial level are available up to February 2004.

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. ■

Construction Type Plywood

February 2004

Data on construction type plywood for February are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2138.

The February 2004 issue of *Construction Type Plywood*, Vol. 52, no. 2 (35-001-XIB, $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*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Cereals and Oilseeds Review, February 2004, Vol. 27, no. 2
Catalogue number 22-007-XIB ($12/$120).

Stocks of Frozen and Chilled Meats, April 2004
Catalogue number 23-009-XIE
(free).

Hog Statistics, 2004, Vol. 3, no. 2
Catalogue number 23-010-XIE
(free).

Construction Type Plywood, February 2004, Vol. 52, no. 2
Catalogue number 35-001-XIB ($6/$51).

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

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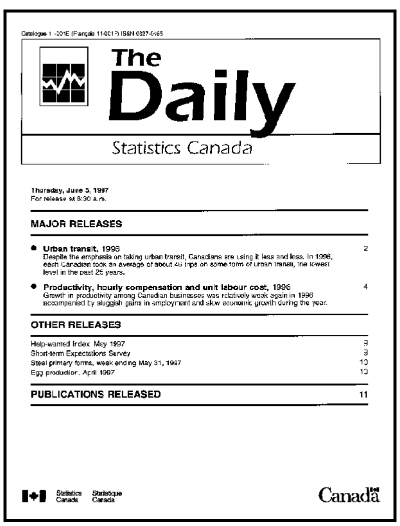
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The Daily
Statistics Canada

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

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- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
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