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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

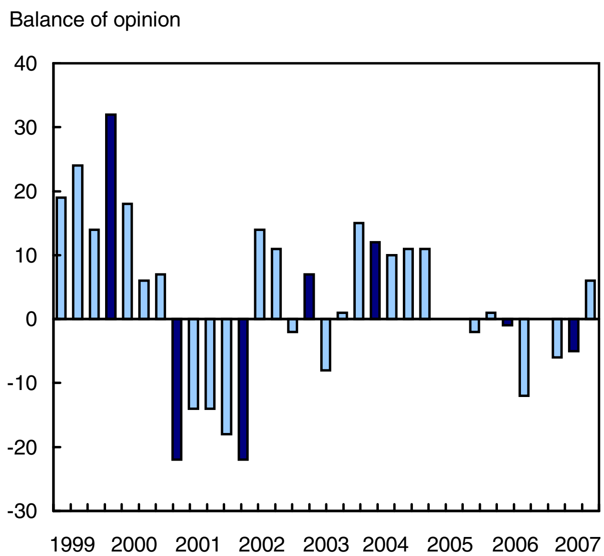
Releases

Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries

April 2007

Manufacturers were more upbeat about their current situation and prospects for production and employment for the second quarter of 2007, according to the April Business Conditions Survey.

Balance of opinion for expected volume of production for the next three months



The Business Conditions Survey is a quarterly survey that requests manufacturers' opinions on production impediments, finished product inventory levels, new and unfilled order levels and production and employment prospects in the coming three months. The voluntary survey was conducted in the first two weeks of April and attracted over 3,000 responses from manufacturers.

Manufacturers are positive about production prospects

In April, 22% of manufacturers stated they would increase production over the next three months, a 4 point rise from the January survey. At the same time, manufacturers indicating they would decrease production in the second quarter dropped 7 points to 16%. As a result, the balance of opinion stood at +6, an 11 point improvement from January. This was the first time the balance of opinion for production prospects moved into positive territory since October 2005 (+1) and was the most positive balance since October 2004 (+10). The improved production prospects were attributed mostly to manufacturers in Ontario. While most other provinces posted a positive balance, opinions reported by manufacturers in Quebec and Alberta remained negative.

Producers of computer and electronic products, transportation equipment and electric equipment, appliance and components industries were the major contributors to the positive balance. In all, 12 of the 21 manufacturing industries posted a positive balance for production prospects in the second quarter of 2007.

The balance of opinion was determined by subtracting the proportion of manufacturers who expected production would be decreasing in the coming three months from the proportion who expected production would be increasing.

> ***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 over 3,000 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 new orders continues to increase

While 22% of manufacturers stated the current level of new orders was increasing, those stating the level of new orders was decreasing fell 12 points to 10%. As a result, the April balance of opinion increased 9 points from the January survey to +12. This represents the most positive balance of opinion regarding the current level of new orders since October 2004 (+13). The improvement in the balance was widespread as 13 of the 21 industries indicated greater satisfaction with current levels of new orders. Producers in petroleum and coal products and electric equipment, appliance and components were the major contributors to the improved balance of opinion for orders received. According to February's Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, new orders for all manufacturing industries increased 1.9% to just over $50.7 billion.

Manufacturers' satisfaction with levels of unfilled orders improved

While most manufacturers continued to describe the backlog of unfilled orders as normal, the April balance of opinion increased 10 points to zero. Some 16% of manufacturers indicated that the current level of unfilled orders was higher than normal and 16% claimed a lower than normal backlog. Producers in the transportation equipment and computer and electronic products industries were the major contributors to the improved unfilled orders balance of opinion. The balance of opinion for unfilled orders had been negative since October 2004. According to February's Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, unfilled orders jumped 4.9% to almost $46.8 billion, an increase of almost $2.2 billion over the previous month.

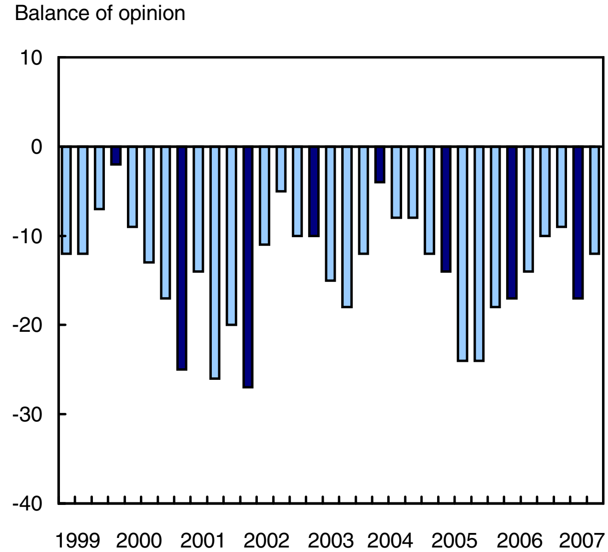
Manufacturers slightly less concerned with finished product inventories

In April, 78% of manufacturers reported that the current level of finished product inventories was about right, up 1 point from January. Some 17% stated that inventories were too high, while 5% said inventories were too low. This left the balance of opinion at -12, a 5 point improvement from the January balance. According to February's Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, finished product inventory levels stood at over $22.2 billion, down only slightly from January.

Manufacturers' employment prospects are positive

The April balance of opinion for employment prospects for the next three months stood at +2, a 6 point improvement from the January survey and the first positive balance since April 2005 (+3). Some 68% of manufacturers stated that they would keep their current work force, 17% indicated they would increase it and 15% indicated that they expected to decrease employment in the second quarter of 2007. Regionally, negative balances in Ontario (-4) and Quebec (-4) were offset by positive balances in the remaining provinces, where manufacturers continued to express difficulty in finding skilled labour. According to the March Labour Force Survey, the manufacturing sector employed just over 2.08 million people representing a slight increase over February.

Balance of opinion for current level of finished-product inventory



Manufacturers report greater production impediments

The number of manufacturers reporting production impediments increased 6 points to 29% in the April survey. Concern with the labour dispute in the rail industry was responsible for most of the increase, while skilled and unskilled labour shortages were also among the factors cited.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2152.

Business Conditions Survey data for July will be released on July 27.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 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 production prospects balance of opinion for select industries

Major group industries	April 2006	July 2006	October 2006	January 2007	April 2007
	Seasonally adjusted				
Non-durable goods	**-5**	**15**	**1**	**12**	**3**
Food	6	14	13	18	20
Chemical	-1	17	9	2	-8
Petroleum and coal products	15	54	57	11	-3
Paper	-2	-2	-13	19	9
Plastic and rubber products	0	5	-25	-25	-9
Durable goods	**-28**	**-9**	**-10**	**-1**	**7**
Transportation equipment	-33	-11	-10	-19	3
Primary metal	3	10	-22	15	18
Wood products	-2	-1	-12	-6	-11
Fabricated metal products	11	0	-10	8	2
Machinery	3	-9	1	-2	-1
Computer and electronic products	12	-6	-18	-24	18

Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries

	April 2006	July 2006	October 2006	January 2007	April 2007
	Seasonally adjusted				
Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:					
About the same (%)	58	60	62	59	62
Higher (%)	15	20	16	18	22
Lower (%)	27	20	22	23	16
Balance of opinion	-12	0	-6	-5	6
Orders received are:					
About the same (%)	64	68	67	52	68
Rising (%)	16	18	10	25	22
Declining (%)	20	14	23	22	10
Balance of opinion	-4	4	-13	3	12
Present backlog of unfilled orders is:					
About normal (%)	70	82	71	68	68
Higher than Normal (%)	12	8	5	11	16
Lower than Normal (%)	18	10	24	21	16
Balance of opinion	-6	-2	-19	-10	0
Finished product inventory on hand is:					
About right (%)	83	84	81	77	78
Too low (%)	1	3	5	3	5
Too high[1](%)	15	13	14	20	17
Balance of opinion	-14	-10	-9	-17	-12
Employment during the next three months will:					
Change little (%)	71	68	65	66	68
Increase (%)	13	15	15	15	17
Decrease (%)	16	17	20	19	15
Balance of opinion	-3	-2	-5	-4	2
	Unadjusted				
	%				
Sources of production difficulties:					
Working capital shortage	3	2	3	2	2
Skilled labour shortage	8	9	10	11	12
Unskilled labour shortage	4	5	6	4	4
Raw material shortage	4	5	4	4	4
Other difficulties	3	2	4	2	7
No difficulties	79	77	72	77	71

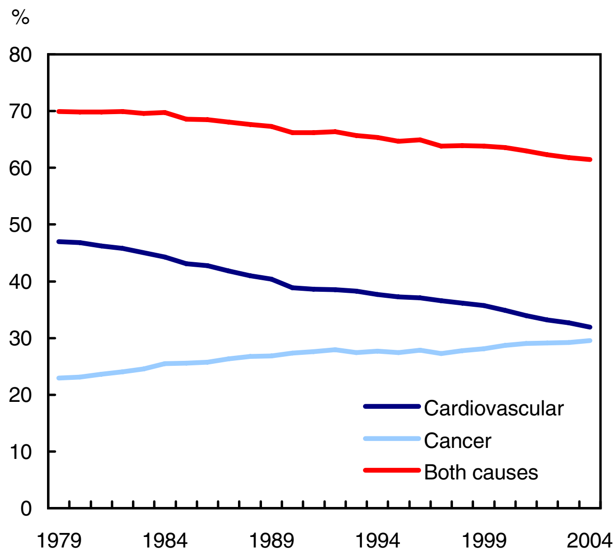
1. *No evident seasonality.*

Mortality, summary list of causes
2004

The number of deaths attributable to cancer may soon surpass those caused by cardiovascular diseases. Combined, the two caused about six out of every 10 deaths in 2004.

During the past 25 years, the proportion of deaths caused by cardiovascular diseases has been declining, while the proportion attributable to cancer has been on the rise. In terms of mortality rates, though, both causes of death have been declining, though much more so for cardiovascular disease.

Share of deaths due to cardiovascular diseases, cancer and both causes, Canada, 1979 to 2004



In 1979, cardiovascular diseases were responsible for 47% of all deaths in Canada; by 2004, this percentage had declined to 32%.

The opposite has occurred with cancer, Canada's second main cause of death. In 1979, cancer was responsible for 23% of all deaths in Canada; by 2004, this percentage had increased to 30%.

The impact of these opposing trends is that the share of deaths due to cancer may soon catch up with, and eventually surpass, the share of deaths due to cardiovascular diseases.

In 2004, 66,947 people died from cancer, up 6.8% from 2000. In contrast, 72,338 died from cardiovascular diseases, a 4.9% decline from 2000.

Between 2000 and 2004, 370,861 people in Canada died from cardiovascular diseases. Of this group, 184,282 were males and 186,579 were females. Male deaths (-5.5%) from cardiovascular diseases declined at a slightly faster rate than female deaths (-4.3%).

To control for the impact of population aging on death rates, comparisons over time are made using the "age-standardized mortality rate." The latter removes the effects of differences in the age structure of populations among areas and over time.

The age-standardized mortality rate for cardiovascular diseases declined 16% from 2000 to 2004, while cancer mortality rates declined 4% over the same period.

In 2000, the age-standardized mortality rate for cardiovascular diseases among men was 64% higher than the female rate. By 2004, this gap had narrowed slightly to 62%.

There were 324,486 cancer deaths over the five-year period. Of this total, 171,655 were males and 152,831 were females. Female deaths from cancer increased at a slightly faster rate, 8.5%, than did male deaths, which rose 5.4%.

In 2000, the male age-standardized mortality rate for cancer was 51% higher than the female rate. By 2004, this gap had narrowed substantially to 44%.

By 2004, the age-standardized mortality rates for cardiovascular diseases and cancer converged at around 175 deaths for every 100,000 people in the population. This was due mainly to the sharp drop in the age-standardized mortality rate for cardiovascular diseases.

In 2000, both men and women had higher age-standardized mortality rates for cardiovascular diseases than for cancer.

In 2003 and 2004, age-standardized mortality rates for cancer among women were higher than those for cardiovascular diseases.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3233.

The 2004 issue of *Mortality, Summary List of Causes* (84F0209XWE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For general information or to order custom tabulations, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; *hd-ds@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Dai, Shiang Ying (613-951-1759), Health Statistics Division. □

Age-standardized mortality rates[1] for cardiovascular diseases and cancer, by sex, Canada, 2000 to 2004

	Cardiovascular diseases			Cancer		
Year	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female
2000	209.1	268.3	164.0	180.4	225.3	149.4
2001	197.5	252.6	155.4	178.7	223.8	147.6
2002	192.1	244.9	151.9	178.2	220.5	149.3
2003	185.0	238.4	144.0	175.6	215.3	148.1
2004	175.6	223.7	137.9	173.7	212.1	147.0

1. Age-standardized mortality rate per 100,000 population.

■

Specialized design services

2005

Specialized design and landscape architecture firms generated $2.6 billion in operating revenues in 2005, up 5% from the previous year. Operating revenues earned by firms in Western Canada grew at a much higher rate than those in the rest of the country.

The operating profit margin for the industry, at 11.3%, was relatively unchanged from the previous year.

Revenue growth was particularly strong in Alberta (up 18%) and British Columbia (up 14%), in sharp contrast with Ontario (up 2%). More than half of the industry's operating revenues were earned in Ontario (55%), followed by Quebec (21%), British Columbia (12%), and Alberta (9%).

Of the five sub-industries covered by the survey, landscape architecture (+12%) and interior design (+10%) led the way in terms of operating revenue growth rate in 2005. These industries benefited from strong building construction activity, particularly in the West. Graphic design recorded the lowest revenue growth rate (+2%).

Firms in graphic design represented nearly half of all specialized design services total operating revenues (49%). Interior design firms generated another 27% and the remaining quarter came from industrial design (9%), landscape architecture (9%), and other design services (6%).

Canadian businesses are the primary customers for specialized design services, generating 70% of the operating revenues. Canadian households were the source of another 13% of the revenues. Exports accounted for 11% of revenues, up from 8% in the previous year. Overall, four out of every five export dollars came from the United States.

The industry's concentration remained relatively low, as the 20 largest firms earned less than one-tenth of the industry's revenues. The industry is primarily comprised of very small firms. Business units providing specialized design services numbered 12,700 in 2005, down from 12,900 the previous year.

Note: The annual survey of specialized design services covers firms classified to 54132 (Landscape Architectural Services) in addition to 5414 (Specialized Design Services) in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). In 2005, industry estimates for landscape architectural services have been derived exclusively from administrative data sources.

Group 5414 is composed of four sub-components, namely Interior Design (54141), Industrial Design (54142), Graphic Design (54143), and Other Specialized Design (54149).

Available on CANSIM: table 360-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4719.

Results from the 2005 Annual Survey of Specialized Design Services are now available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Saad Gouled (613-951-6701; fax: 613-951-6696; *saad.gouled@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

Restaurants, caterers and taverns

February 2007 (preliminary)

Total estimated sales of the restaurants, caterers and taverns industry reached $2.9 billion in February, a 2.4% increase over February 2006. (Data are neither seasonally adjusted, nor adjusted for inflation.)

The increase in sales, at the national level, was due to higher sales at full service (+2.2%) and limited service restaurants (+2.0%). These two sectors account for almost 85% of the sales for the industry. The food service contractors' sector increased by 18.5% and accounted for more than 7% of the sales for the industry in February.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2419.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality, or to obtain more information about the redesign or the revision of the number of locations of the Monthly Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns Survey contact Alain Mbassegue (613-951-2011; fax: 613-951-6696, *alain.mbassegue@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division.

Food services sales

	February 2006[r]	January 2007[r]	February 2007[p]	February 2006 to February 2007
	Not seasonally adjusted			
	$ thousands			% change
Total, food services sales	**2,862,589**	**3,034,466**	**2,930,403**	**2.4**
Full-service restaurants	1,361,807	1,420,255	1,391,208	2.2
Limited-service restaurants	1,070,467	1,197,457	1,092,163	2.0
Food service contractors	185,624	176,350	219,977	18.5
Social and mobile caterers	54,000	49,988	52,977	-1.9
Drinking places	190,691	190,416	174,077	-8.7
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	27,630	29,967	28,860	4.5
Prince Edward Island	9,886	10,560	10,177	2.9
Nova Scotia	59,987	63,292	62,840	4.8
New Brunswick	49,253	47,474	45,580	-7.5
Quebec	596,749	626,237	608,952	2.0
Ontario	1,116,331	1,190,214	1,140,660	2.2
Manitoba	71,937	76,103	68,566	-4.7
Saskatchewan	69,871	78,291	71,221	1.9
Alberta	370,874	403,046	380,468	2.6
British Columbia	481,316	500,682	502,976	4.5
Yukon	2,056	1,795	1,925	-6.3
Northwest Territories	6,471	6,523	7,873	21.7
Nunavut	226	280	305	34.8

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

■

Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults

March 2007 (preliminary)

Placements of hatchery chicks onto farms were estimated at 58.5 million birds in March, up 2.9% from March 2006. Placements of turkey poults on farms increased 6.8% to 1.9 million birds.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5039.

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

New products

Guide to the Labour Force Survey, 2007
Catalogue number 71-543-GWE
(free).

Mortality, Summary List of Causes, 2004
Catalogue number 84F0209XWE
(free).

Causes of Death, 2004
Catalogue number 84-208-XIE
(free).

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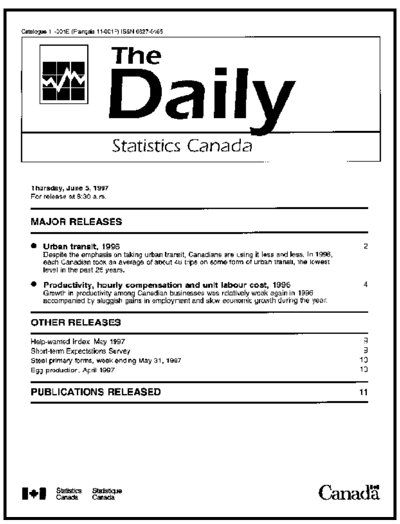
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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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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

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED — 11

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Release dates: April 30 to May 4, 2007

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
30	**Gross domestic product by industry**	February 2007
30	**Wave 3 of the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada**	2005
1	**Industrial product and raw materials price indexes**	Mars 2007
3	**Income of Canadians**	2005