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Releases

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, May 2015

Manufacturing sales edged up 0.1% to \$49.9 billion in May, while constant dollar sales fell 0.5%, indicating a lower volume of goods sold.

The slight increase in current dollar sales was the second gain in 2015. Sales were up in 6 out of 21 industries, representing almost half of the Canadian manufacturing sector.

Chart 1 Sales edge up in current dollars

Note(s): Data are seasonally adjusted.

Source(s): CANSIM tables [304-0014](#) and [377-0009](#).

Advances in aerospace and petroleum offset by multiple declines

Advances in aerospace product and parts as well as petroleum and coal products in May, were offset by multiple declines, most notably the chemical and machinery industries.

Production in the aerospace product and parts industry rose 22.2% in May, after declining 18.0% in April. The aerospace industry is volatile relative to the manufacturing sector as a whole. The gain in May partly reflects changes in the value of the US dollar relative to the Canadian dollar, as sales and inventories are mainly reported in US dollars for the aerospace industry. Year to date, production has increased 7.4% compared with the same period in 2014.

Sales of petroleum and coal products rose 5.6%, mostly reflecting higher prices as reported by the Industrial Product Price Index. Prices fell from June 2014 to January 2015 for petroleum refineries, reaching a low in January. In May, prices were 14.0% higher than in January.

Lower sales in multiple industries offset the gains in aerospace and petroleum. Sales of chemical products fell 3.5%, reflecting in part a smaller seasonal increase than usual in the pesticides, fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals industry. Machinery manufacturers posted a 3.5% decline in sales and reported widespread decreases. Other industries posting lower sales included food and wood manufacturers.

Gains in Quebec offset by declines in Ontario

Gains in Quebec were offset by declines in Ontario in May. The other provinces reported relatively minor fluctuations, with the largest dollar gain in Alberta.

Sales rose 2.2% in Quebec, the second gain for the province in 2015. Higher production in the aerospace industry (+49.1%) was responsible for the growth in May. Year to date, aerospace production was up 8.9% compared with the same period in 2014. Lower sales of machinery products (-16.7%) offset a portion of the gains in aerospace.

Manufacturers in Alberta posted a 0.9% increase in sales, mainly as a result of gains in petroleum and coal products. Sales for the manufacturing sector in Alberta have been generally trending downwards ever since prices for petroleum refineries began to decline in July 2014. Sales for petroleum and coal products rose 6.6% in May and reached their highest level since December 2014.

Declines in multiple industries led to a 1.1% decrease in sales for Ontario manufacturers, the fourth drop for the province in 2015. Manufacturers in the transportation equipment industry posted the largest dollar decrease in May, down 1.1%, following two months of advances. Despite the downturn in May, sales of transportation equipment were 5.2% higher on a year-to-date basis compared with the same period in 2014. The provincial decrease also reflected lower sales of chemical products, machinery and computer and electronic products.

Inventories decrease after two consecutive gains

Inventories decreased 0.5% to \$71.9 billion, following two consecutive gains. The decline reflected lower volumes of inventories on hand in the petroleum and coal industry.

Chart 2 Inventories decline

Note(s): Data are seasonally adjusted.
Source(s): CANSIM table [304-0014](#).

The inventory-to-sales ratio edged down from 1.45 in April to 1.44 in May. The inventory-to-sales ratio measures the time, in months, that it would take to exhaust inventories if sales were to remain at the current rate.

Chart 3 The inventory-to-sales ratio edges down

Note(s): Data are seasonally adjusted.
Source(s): CANSIM table [304-0014](#).

Unfilled orders decline for fourth consecutive month

Unfilled orders fell 1.3% to \$95.5 billion in May, the fourth consecutive monthly decline. The transportation equipment industry, in particular the aerospace industry, contributed to the monthly decrease. Orders fell 1.2% in transportation and 1.0% in the aerospace industry. Manufacturers in the fabricated metal and machinery industries also reported lower unfilled orders. The four months of declines represented a reversal of the previous upward trend for unfilled orders, which started in September 2014 and culminated in a record high in January 2015.

Chart 4 Unfilled orders decline for the fourth consecutive month

Note(s): Data are seasonally adjusted.
Source(s): CANSIM tables [304-0014](#).

New orders rose 1.7%, as a result of growth in the aerospace product and parts industry. Gains in new orders for aerospace products partly reflected a stronger US dollar relative to the Canadian dollar. The advances were partially offset by declines in computer and electronic products, chemicals and fabricated metals.

Note to readers

Monthly data in this release are seasonally adjusted and are expressed in current dollars unless otherwise specified. For more information on seasonal adjustment, refer to the document [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

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

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

Production-based industries

For the aerospace industry and shipbuilding industries, the value of production is used instead of sales of goods manufactured. This value is calculated by adjusting monthly sales of goods manufactured by the monthly change in inventories of goods in process and finished products manufactured. Production is used due to the extended period of time that it normally takes to manufacture products in those industries.

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders that will contribute to future sales assuming that the orders are not cancelled.

New orders are those received whether sold in the current month or not. New orders are measured as the sum of sales for the current month plus the change in unfilled orders from the previous month to the current month.

Manufacturers reporting in US dollars

Some Canadian manufacturers report sales, inventories and unfilled orders in US dollars. These data are then converted to Canadian dollars as part of the data production cycle.

For sales, based on the assumption that they occur throughout the month, the average monthly exchange rate for the reference month (noon spot rate) established by the Bank of Canada is used for the conversion. The monthly average exchange rate is available in CANSIM table 176-0064.

Inventories and unfilled orders are reported at the end of the reference period. For most respondents, the noon spot exchange rate on the last working day of the month is used for the conversion of these variables. Some manufacturers choose to report their data as of a day other than the last day of the month. In those instances the noon spot exchange rate of the day selected by the respondent is used. The noon spot exchange rate is available in CANSIM table 176-0067. Because of exchange rate fluctuations, the monthly average exchange rate can differ substantially from the exchange rate on the last working day of the month.

Revision policy

Each month the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing releases preliminary estimates for the reference month and revised estimates for the three previous months. Revisions are made to reflect new information provided by respondents, and updates to administrative data. Once per year a revision project is undertaken where multiple years of data are revised. During annual revisions changes are made to our seasonal adjustment parameters.

Next release

Data from the June Monthly Survey of Manufacturing will be released on August 14.

Table 1
Manufacturing: Principal statistics – Seasonally adjusted

	May 2014	April 2015 ^r	May 2015 ^P	April to May 2015	May 2014 to May 2015
	millions of dollars			% change ¹	
Manufacturing sales (current dollars)	51,805	49,875	49,935	0.1	-3.6
Manufacturing sales (2007 constant dollars)	46,518	45,519	45,277	-0.5	-2.7
Manufacturing sales (current dollars) excluding motor vehicles, parts and accessories	44,736	42,944	42,973	0.1	-3.9
Inventories	71,144	72,286	71,911	-0.5	1.1
Unfilled orders	89,464	96,786	95,493	-1.3	6.7
New orders	51,551	47,840	48,643	1.7	-5.6
Inventory-to-sales ratio ²	1.37	1.45	1.44

^r revised

^P preliminary

... not applicable

1. Percent change calculated at thousands of dollars for current dollars, and millions of dollars for constant dollars.

2. The inventory-to-sales ratio measures the time, in months, that it would take to exhaust inventories if sales were to remain at the current rate.

Source(s): CANSIM tables [304-0014](#) and [377-0009](#).

Table 2
Manufacturing sales: Industry aggregates – Seasonally adjusted

	May 2014	April 2015 ^r	May 2015 ^P	April to May 2015	May 2014 to May 2015
	millions of dollars			% change ¹	
Food manufacturing	7,895	7,848	7,786	-0.8	-1.4
Beverage and tobacco product	997	1,032	1,041	0.9	4.4
Textile mills	119	128	125	-2.3	5.0
Textile product mills	143	147	138	-6.0	-3.5
Clothing manufacturing	205	212	198	-6.9	-3.7
Leather and allied product	40	37	35	-5.5	-13.4
Wood product	2,033	2,120	2,068	-2.5	1.7
Paper manufacturing	2,125	2,214	2,205	-0.4	3.8
Printing and related support activities	750	753	732	-2.8	-2.5
Petroleum and coal product	7,350	5,191	5,482	5.6	-25.4
Chemical	3,960	4,078	3,936	-3.5	-0.6
Plastics and rubber products	2,140	2,264	2,244	-0.9	4.9
Non-metallic mineral product	1,077	1,049	1,055	0.6	-2.1
Primary metal	3,919	3,827	3,834	0.2	-2.2
Fabricated metal product	2,855	2,811	2,817	0.2	-1.3
Machinery	2,851	2,861	2,761	-3.5	-3.2
Computer and electronic product	1,105	1,181	1,134	-4.0	2.6
Electrical equipment, appliance and component	849	811	774	-4.6	-8.9
Transportation equipment	9,500	9,362	9,680	3.4	1.9
Motor vehicle	4,833	4,636	4,668	0.7	-3.4
Motor vehicle body and trailer	310	327	322	-1.4	4.1
Motor vehicle parts	2,235	2,295	2,294	-0.1	2.6
Aerospace product and parts	1,615	1,531	1,870	22.2	15.8
Railroad rolling stock	70	123	114	-7.1	62.5
Ship and boat building	83	120	122	1.3	47.9
Furniture and related product	925	940	914	-2.8	-1.2
Miscellaneous manufacturing	965	1,010	978	-3.1	1.3
Non-durable goods industries	25,725	23,903	23,921	0.1	-7.0
Durable goods industries	26,080	25,972	26,014	0.2	-0.3

^r revised

^P preliminary

1. Percent change calculated at thousands of dollars.

Source(s): CANSIM table [304-0014](#).

Table 3
Manufacturing sales: Provinces and territories – Seasonally adjusted

	May 2014	April 2015 ^r	May 2015 ^p	April to May 2015	May 2014 to May 2015
	millions of dollars			% change ¹	
Canada	51,805	49,875	49,935	0.1	-3.6
Newfoundland and Labrador	524	468	489	4.6	-6.7
Prince Edward Island	125	136	128	-6.0	2.2
Nova Scotia	598	594	606	1.9	1.3
New Brunswick	1,664	1,529	1,547	1.2	-7.0
Quebec	11,898	11,662	11,917	2.2	0.2
Ontario	24,128	23,599	23,345	-1.1	-3.2
Manitoba	1,304	1,299	1,270	-2.2	-2.6
Saskatchewan	1,392	1,197	1,193	-0.3	-14.3
Alberta	6,576	5,749	5,799	0.9	-11.8
British Columbia	3,590	3,637	3,637	0.0	1.3
Yukon	2	2	2	-2.5	-11.0
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	2	2	2	17.0	7.8

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Percent change calculated at thousands of dollars.

Source(s): CANSIM tables [304-0014](#) and [304-0015](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [304-0014](#), [304-0015](#) and [377-0009](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2101](#).

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136 or 1-514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Elizabeth Richards (613-863-4623; elizabeth.richards@statcan.gc.ca) or Michael Schimpf (613-863-4480; michael.schimpf@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Wholesale Trade Division.

Canadian Health Measures Survey: Laboratory environmental data, 2012 and 2013

Lead, mercury and cadmium

In 2012 and 2013, the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS) measured lead, total mercury, and cadmium (heavy metals) in the blood of a representative sample of Canadians aged 3 to 79. Results show that the average concentration of blood lead was 1.1 micrograms per decilitre ($\mu\text{g/dL}$). Blood lead levels were higher in males (1.2 $\mu\text{g/dL}$) compared with females (0.97 $\mu\text{g/dL}$), and in adults aged 20 to 79 (1.2 $\mu\text{g/dL}$) compared with children and youth aged 3 to 19 (0.68 $\mu\text{g/dL}$).

The average concentration of total mercury in blood was 0.79 microgram per litre ($\mu\text{g/L}$). There were no significant differences between males and females, although the total blood mercury concentration was higher in adults (0.92 $\mu\text{g/L}$) compared with children and youth (0.42 $\mu\text{g/L}$).

The average blood cadmium concentration was 0.33 $\mu\text{g/L}$. There were no significant differences between males and females, although cadmium levels tended to be higher in adults (0.42 $\mu\text{g/L}$) compared with children and youth (0.12 $\mu\text{g/L}$).

Chronic and high-level exposure to these heavy metals can cause health issues including musculoskeletal or neurological problems. Average lead and mercury levels were well below Health Canada's established values above which follow-up action is recommended (10 $\mu\text{g/dL}$ for lead and 20 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for mercury). There is currently no recommended intervention level for cadmium.

Bisphenol A

The CHMS also measured bisphenol A (BPA) in the urine of Canadians aged 3 to 79. The average urine concentration was 1.1 $\mu\text{g/L}$. In contrast to the heavy metals, urinary BPA tended to be lower in adults aged 20 to 79 compared with children and youth aged 3 to 19.

Although Health Canada suggests that the current dietary exposure to BPA through food packaging is not proven to pose health risks to the general population, it is still recommended to limit exposure.

Tobacco use

The tobacco use of Canadians aged 12 to 79 was assessed based on levels of cotinine concentrations in urine. Results indicate that 21% or about 1 in 5 Canadians aged 12 to 79 were smokers. Smoking was more prevalent among males (25%) than females (17%) and among middle-aged adults aged 40 to 59 (27%) than among the older and younger age groups.

Note to readers

The Canadian Health Measures Survey was conducted from January 2012 to December 2013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5071](#).

The fact sheets "[Bisphenol A concentrations in Canadians, 2012 and 2013](#)," "[Tobacco use of Canadians, 2012 and 2013](#)," and "[Lead, mercury and cadmium concentrations in Canadians, 2012 and 2013](#)" from the publication *Health Fact Sheets (82-625-X)* are now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

This release also includes data on other environmental contaminants measured in the blood and/or urine of respondents, including other metals and trace elements, acrylamide, methyl mercury, various insecticides and herbicides.

Additional information on many environmental substances is presented in the Health Canada document [Third Report on Human Biomonitoring of Environmental Chemicals in Canada](#).

Weight files and instructions are available for combining cycle 3 Canadian Health Measures Survey data (where possible) with equivalent data from cycle 1 and/or cycle 2.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Health Reports, July 2015

The July 2015 online issue of *Health Reports*, released today, contains two articles: "Comparison of Physical Activity Adult Questionnaire results with accelerometer data" and "Prevalence of hearing loss among Canadians aged 20 to 79: Audiometric results from the 2012/2013 Canadian Health Measures Survey."

Discrepancies between self-reported and objectively measured physical activity are well-known. For the purpose of validation, "[Comparison of Physical Activity Adult Questionnaire results with accelerometer data](#)" compares a new self-reported physical activity questionnaire with an existing one and with accelerometer data collected at one site of the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS) in 2013. The International Physical Activity Questionnaire was administered to respondents during the household interview, and the new Physical Activity for Adults Questionnaire was administered during a subsequent visit to a mobile examination centre. At the mobile examination centre, respondents were given an accelerometer to wear for seven days.

For more information on this article, contact Didier Garriguet (didier.garriguet@statcan.gc.ca; 613-854-7155), Health Analysis Division.

The 2012/2013 CHMS (cycle 3) collected audiometric and self-reported data to estimate the prevalence of hearing loss and limitations in a population-based sample of Canadians. "[Prevalence of hearing loss among Canadians aged 20 to 79: Audiometric results from the 2012/2013 Canadian Health Measures Survey](#)" presents an analysis of CHMS audiometric and self-reported hearing data for adults aged 20 to 79.

For more information on this article, contact Media Relations (613-957-2983), Health Canada.

The July 2015 online issue of *Health Reports*, Vol. 26, no. 7 ([82-003-X](#)) is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

The article "[Walk Score® and the prevalence of utilitarian walking and obesity among Ontario adults: A cross-sectional study](#)" is also available in the July 2015 online issue of *Health Reports*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

For information about *Health Reports*, contact Janice Felman (613-799-7746; janice.felman@statcan.gc.ca), Health Analysis Division.

Waste management industry: Business and government sectors, 2012

Businesses in the waste management industry had total operating revenues of \$6.4 billion in 2012, up from \$6.0 billion in 2010. Ontario waste management businesses accounted for \$2.6 billion, while Quebec businesses had \$1.3 billion in operating revenues.

Local governments spent \$3.2 billion on waste management. Expenditures in the operation of organics processing facilities increased 14.1% from 2010 to \$85.1 million.

Just over 33,000 people were employed full time in the waste management industry in both the government and business sectors in 2012.

Note to readers

This release of financial and employment characteristics of the waste management industry is based on the results of the biennial Waste Management Industry Survey: Business and Government Sectors 2012.

Available in CANSIM: tables [153-0044](#) and [153-0045](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [1736](#) and [2009](#).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Travel Survey of Residents of Canada, 2014 (final)

In 2014, the number of domestic trips decreased 0.7% from 2013 to 320.2 million. Total expenditures for those trips increased 2.1% to \$47.2 billion.

Note to readers

The Travel Survey of Residents of Canada underwent a redesign in 2011. The survey scope is more inclusive and allows more trips to be collected. Moreover, its new design makes it easier to report trips. These changes are increasing the survey estimates from previous years. This creates a break in the domestic tourism time series.

A more exhaustive document explaining the [differences between the redesigned 2011 Travel Survey of Residents of Canada and the 2010 survey](#) is available on our website.

Available in CANSIM: tables [426-0024](#) to [426-0028](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3810](#).

The product *Travel Survey of Residents of Canada: Public Use Microdata File, 2014* ([87M0016X](#)), is now available upon request.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

New motor vehicle sales, May 2015

New motor vehicle sales data for Canada and the provinces are now available for May.

This survey collects data on monthly sales (in dollars and units) of new motor vehicles sold in Canada, by type of vehicle and origin of manufacture.

Note to readers

These data are subject to revision.

Available in CANSIM: table [079-0003](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2402](#).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

New products and studies

New products

Health Reports, Vol. 26, no. 7
Catalogue number [82-003-X](#) (HTML | PDF)

Health Fact Sheets
Catalogue number [82-625-X](#) (HTML)

Travel Survey of Residents of Canada: Public Use Microdata File, 2014
Catalogue number [87M0016X](#) (CD-ROM)

New studies

[Walk Score® and the prevalence of utilitarian walking and obesity among Ontario adults: A cross-sectional study](#)

Health Reports

[Comparison of Physical Activity Adult Questionnaire results with accelerometer data](#)

Health Reports

[Prevalence of hearing loss among Canadians aged 20 to 79: Audiometric results from the 2012/2013 Canadian Health Measures Survey](#)

Health Reports

[Bisphenol A concentrations in Canadians, 2012 and 2013](#)

Health Fact Sheets

[Tobacco use of Canadians, 2012 and 2013](#)

Health Fact Sheets

[Lead, mercury and cadmium concentrations in Canadians, 2012 and 2013](#)

Health Fact Sheets



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