

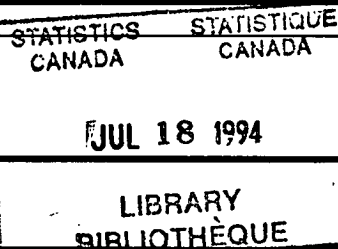


The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, July 18, 1994

For release at 8:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASE

• Monthly survey of manufacturing, May 1994

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Widespread increases helped manufacturers continue a strong spring surge as they boosted shipments 1.5% to \$28.3 billion. The advance in May was the third strong increase in a row after a five-month winter slump.

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Focus on Canada series

1991 Census

Some of the most popular publications generated from the 1991 Census database are contained in the *Focus on Canada* series. Two reports from this series are available today: *Families in Canada* (96-307E, \$12) and *Family income in Canada* (96-318E, \$12).

The *Focus on Canada* series is distributed exclusively by Prentice Hall Canada Inc., 1870 Birchmount Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1P 2J7. Copies may be ordered by toll-free telephone at 1-800-567-3800 or by fax at 1-416-299-2529.



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MAJOR RELEASE

Monthly survey of manufacturing May 1994

The seasonally adjusted value of shipments rose 1.5% to \$28.3 billion as manufacturers boosted output for the third month in a row (for a total increase of 6.9%) after five months of no net growth. As in March and April, the increase in May was widespread. Manufacturers in 15 of the 22 major groups (accounting for 81% of total shipments) reported a rise in shipment levels.

The backlog of unfilled orders, which will contribute to future shipments unless orders are cancelled, declined a marginal 0.2% to \$31.2 billion. This followed five months of growth when the orders backlog increased by \$3.3 billion.

Manufacturers post third monthly rise in shipments

Manufacturers continued to rev up after the winter slump as they posted their third strong increase in a row. The May increase was led by food producers (+\$106 million or +3.0%). Fish producers in the lobster and crab industry on the East Coast enjoyed a double dose of good luck. As reported by the media, declining crab catches off Alaska forced the Japanese-driven market to pay higher prices, while plentiful crab stocks in the Gulf of St. Lawrence led to a 38% rise in Canadian quotas. From the West Coast, roe herring (another Japanese delicacy) added to the increased shipments for fish producers.

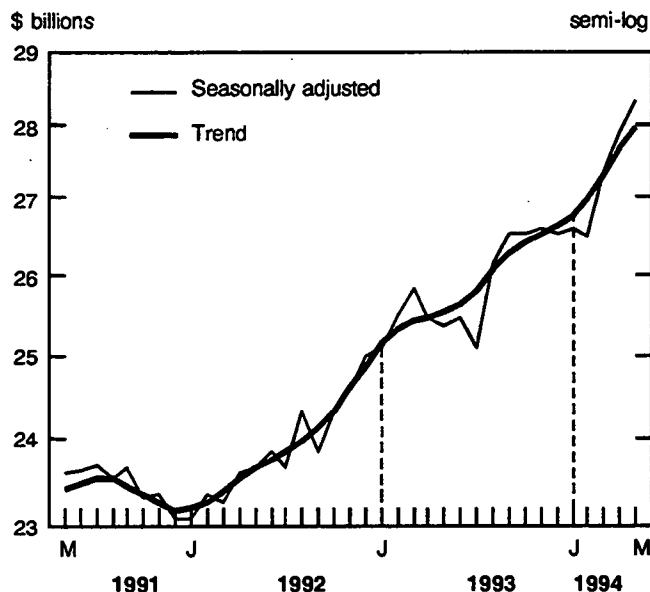
Other foods also recorded strong gains. Coffee purchasers stocked up in the wake of increasing prices, largely because members of the Association of Coffee Producing Countries decided to restrict supply. Canola manufacturers increased sales. Canola's popularity has soared because of booming international demand for a low-fat alternative to cooking oils made from palm seeds, corn or sunflower seeds. Prices for canola are relatively high. Manufacturers expect to export record amounts this year to Europe, Japan and the United States. They also expect to open up markets in Mexico and China.

Transportation equipment manufacturers shipped \$96 million more in May than in April. This was largely a result of increasing production at the Ford and General Motors plants, which had been closed for retooling to new models. It was also a result of increased production (including extra shifts and

Note to users

With the release last month of data for April 1994, the estimated values of shipments, inventories and orders were revised back to January 1991. These revisions resulted from benchmarking to both the 1991 and the 1992 annual survey of manufactures (ASM), since the results of the ASM are now available almost a year earlier. The benchmarking and revision process adjusts monthly sample estimates in the benchmark years (1991 and 1992) to the annual ASM levels, updates the sample, uses new and revised data, and re-estimates the seasonal adjustment factors.

Shipments soar following winter slump



overtime) at most Canadian automakers' plants, which was in response to strong car and light truck sales in Canada and in the United States.

Strong demand from foreign sources, notably the United States, also helped manufacturers improve shipments of refined petroleum and coal products (+5.2%), wood (+3.9%), fabricated metal (+2.8%), and machinery (+2.8%).

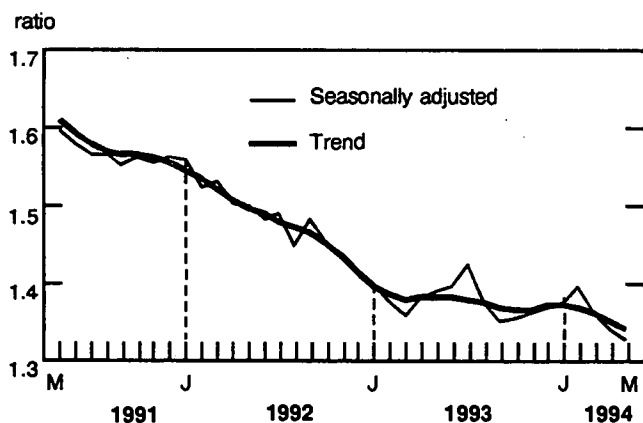
The value of shipments for the first five months of 1994 was \$136.6 billion, 7.4% higher than in the same period in 1993.

Inventory levels are rising, but the ratio is declining

Excepting one month, the value of inventories (owned) has risen continuously over the latest 14 months, increasing by 7.2% or \$2.5 billion. Most of the increase occurred in the wood products industry as manufacturers stocked up in response to high prices and anticipated construction activity. Manufacturers of fabricated metal products, machinery, and transportation equipment have also boosted inventory levels over the past year.

Despite this increase in inventories, the inventories to shipments ratio has fallen (with some monthly fluctuations) from 1.38 to 1.32 as the increase in shipments has generally outpaced the increase in inventories.

The inventories to shipments ratio continues to decline

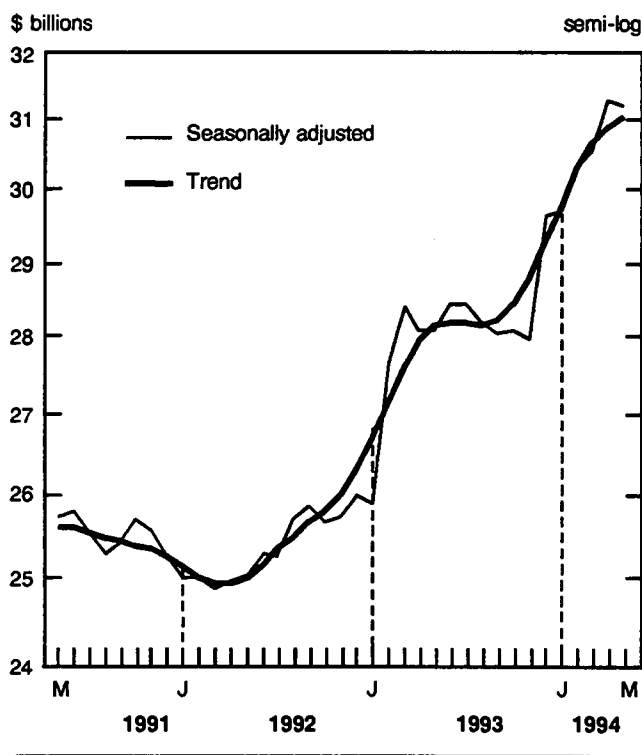


Customers take a breather as orders dip slightly

For the first time in six months, the backlog of unfilled orders declined, down a slight 0.2% to \$31.2 billion. In the previous five months, the backlog increased by \$3.3 billion. Large contracts were awarded in selected industries (notably railroad rolling-stock and aircraft). Numerous smaller contracts were awarded to Canadian manufacturers of machinery, primary and fabricated metals, and electrical and electronic products.

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments, assuming that orders are not cancelled.

The backlog of unfilled orders has increased by \$6.3 billion since March 1992



New orders are the sum of shipments for the current month (i.e., orders received and shipped within the same month) plus the change in unfilled orders.

New orders fell 1.4% in May after three months of solid performance. Manufacturers of transportation equipment (-3.6%), electrical and electronic products (-8.8%), machinery (-13.8%) and primary metals (-4.9%) recorded the largest drops from April's impressive figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9580.

The May 1994 issue of *Monthly survey of manufacturing* (31-001, \$19/\$190) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications". Data on shipments by province in greater detail may be available on request.

For further information on this release, contact Mark Marcogliese (613-951-9834), Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section, Industry Division. □

Shipments, Inventories and orders in all manufacturing Industries

Period	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventories to shipments ratio
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	
seasonally adjusted									
May 1993	25,327	-0.4	35,146	0.5	28,082	0.0	25,317	0.8	1.39
June 1993	25,433	0.4	35,434	0.8	28,412	1.2	25,763	1.8	1.39
July 1993	25,077	-1.4	35,695	0.7	28,434	0.1	25,100	-2.6	1.42
August 1993	26,116	4.1	35,838	0.4	28,159	-1.0	25,841	3.0	1.37
September 1993	26,513	1.5	35,765	-0.2	28,050	-0.4	26,404	2.2	1.35
October 1993	26,514	0.0	35,872	0.3	28,069	0.1	26,532	0.5	1.35
November 1993	26,569	0.2	36,121	0.7	27,981	-0.3	26,481	-0.2	1.36
December 1993	26,510	-0.2	36,247	0.3	29,646	6.0	28,175	6.4	1.37
January 1994	26,582	0.3	36,523	0.8	29,745	0.3	26,681	-5.3	1.37
February 1994	26,457	-0.5	36,866	0.9	30,283	1.8	26,995	1.2	1.39
March 1994	27,345	3.4	37,185	0.9	30,530	0.8	27,591	2.2	1.36
April 1994	27,877	1.9	37,304	0.3	31,281	2.5	28,628	3.8	1.34
May 1994	28,294	1.5	37,484	0.5	31,227	-0.2	28,240	-1.4	1.32

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Department store sales advance release

June 1994

In June department store sales including concessions were \$1,068 million, up 7.1% from June 1993. Sales for the major department stores were \$552 million (+3.2%), while sales for the junior category were \$516 million (+11.6%).

Note: this advance release is a very preliminary indicator of data that will be published in the monthly department store sales by province and metropolitan area survey.

For further information on this release, contact Tom Newton (613-951-3552), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. ■

Sales of natural gas

May 1994 (preliminary)

Lower demand by all three major sectors led to a decline in total domestic sales of natural gas. In May 1994, natural gas sales were down 2.1% from May 1993, to 3 728 million cubic metres.

Residential sales rose 8.1% in the first five months of 1994, largely due to unseasonably cold temperatures in January and February 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1052-1055.

The May 1994 issue of *Gas utilities* (55-002, \$14/\$140) will be available the third week of August. See "How to order publications".

Sales of natural gas

	May 1994 ^P	May 1993 to May 1994
	thousands of cubic metres	% change
Total	3 727 689	-2.1
Residential	661 240	-5.1
Commercial	515 346	-6.4
Industrial	1 908 584	-0.3
Direct	642 519	
	January to May 1994 ^P	January-May 1993 to January-May 1994
	thousands of cubic metres	% change
Total	30 556 875	2.7
Residential	9 304 888	8.1
Commercial	6 948 444	3.6
Industrial	10 503 225	-1.6
Direct	3 800 318	

^P Preliminary figures.

For further information on this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567), Energy Section, Industry Division. ■

Crude petroleum and natural gas industry: volume and value of marketable production

1993

Led by strong export demand, production of natural gas and crude oil advanced in 1993. Natural gas production rose 10.4% to 128.8 billion cubic metres in 1993, while crude oil production increased 4.3% to 97.3 million cubic metres.

The value of natural gas production is estimated at \$7.5 billion for 1993, a sharp 31.0% rise from 1992. The advance is due to both volume and price increases. The value of crude oil production is estimated at \$11.1 billion for 1993, up 1.7% from 1992.

Crude petroleum and natural gas industry: volume and value of marketable production

		1993	1992 to 1993 % change
Crude oil			
Volume	m ³ thousands	97 301.6	4.3
Value	\$ millions	11,090.3	1.7
Natural gas			
Volume	m ³ millions	128 827.4	10.4
Value	\$ millions	7,491.2	31.0
Natural gas by-products¹			
Volume	m ³ thousands	30 106.8	12.6
Value	\$ millions	2,860.4	17.5

¹ Excludes volume and value of elemental sulphur.

The 1993 issue of *Crude petroleum and natural gas industry* (26-213, \$28) will be available the third week of September.

For further information on this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567), Energy Section, Industry Division. ■

Crude petroleum and natural gas industry: capital and operating expenditures

1993

Capital expenditures in the conventional crude petroleum and natural gas industry rose an exceptional 56.1% from 1992, to \$8.3 billion—the highest level since 1985. This reflects a sharp rise in drilling activity in 1993. Capital expenditures in the non-conventional sector in 1993 amounted to \$0.3 billion, down 46.7% from 1992. The decline is due to completion of some major projects.

Operating costs in the conventional sector rose a modest 0.5% to \$8.8 billion in 1993. Operating costs in the non-conventional sector in 1993 amounted to \$1.7 billion, up 5.7% from 1992.

Crude petroleum and natural gas industry: capital and operating expenditures

		1993 \$ millions	1992 to 1993 % change
Capital expenditures			
Conventional		8,317.1	56.1
Non-conventional		340.8	-46.7
Operating expenditures			
Conventional		8,800.2	0.5
Non-conventional		1,719.0	5.7

The 1993 issue of *Crude petroleum and natural gas industry* (26-213, \$28) will be available the third week of September.

For further information on this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567), Energy Section, Industry Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Refined petroleum products, April 1994.

Catalogue number 45-004

(Canada: \$20/\$200; United States: US\$24/US\$240;
other countries: US\$28/US\$280).

Sound recording, 1992-93.

Catalogue number 87-202

(Canada: \$24; United States: US\$29; other countries:
US\$34).

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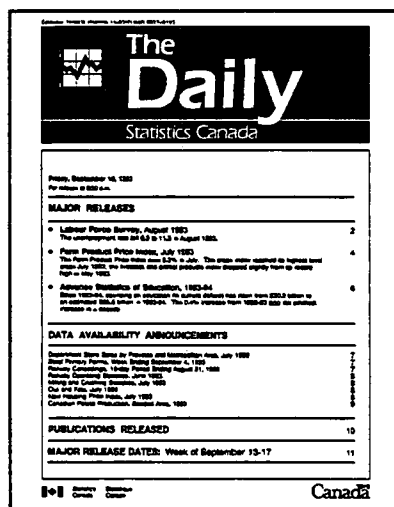
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