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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

MAJOR RELEASES

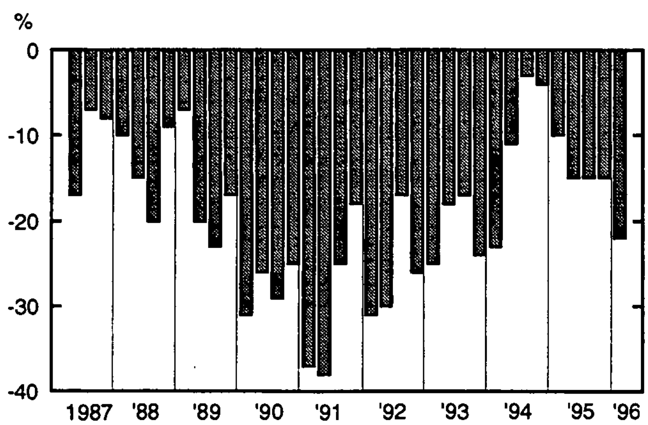
Business Conditions Survey, manufacturing industries

January 1996

In the January 1996 Business Conditions Survey, manufacturers expressed greater concern about high inventories of finished products than they did in the previous three surveys. Consistent with this concern, expectations for employment and production in the coming quarter have weakened.

The proportion of manufacturers who believed their inventories of finished products were too high increased to 27%, up from 19% in October. This brought the balance of opinion to -22, down from the stable -15 posted during the previous three quarters. (The balance of opinion of -22 in January was arrived at by subtracting the 27% of manufacturers who stated inventories were too high from the 5% who stated inventories were too low.)

Balance of opinion on current levels of finished-product inventories



The drop in the balance is supported by data from the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing. In the 12 months ending in November, inventories of finished products grew more than 15% to a record $15 billion.

Weaker outlook on employment prospects

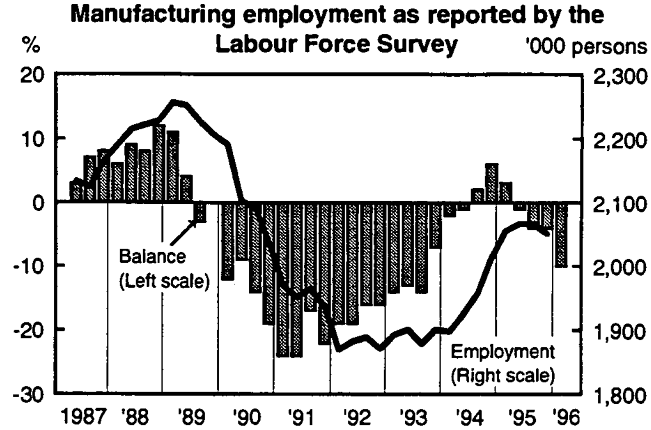
The balance of manufacturers' opinions about employment prospects for the next three months dropped 6 points to -10 in January. A decrease in employment is predicted by 20% of manufacturers, up from 16% in the October survey. Only 10% of manufacturers expect to increase hiring in the first quarter. The remaining 70% expect no change in their employment levels.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *The Business Conditions Survey is conducted quarterly in January, April, July and October. Most responses are recorded in the first two weeks of these months. Results are based on replies from about 5,000 manufacturers and are weighted by a manufacturer's shipments or employment levels. Consequently, larger manufacturers have a correspondingly larger impact on the results than do smaller manufacturers.*
>
> *Except for the data on production difficulties, data in this release are seasonally adjusted.*

The industries that contributed most to the decline in the balance of opinion were transportation equipment; electrical and electronic products; machinery; and fabricated metal products.

In December, the Labour Force Survey reported that 2,032,000 people were employed in manufacturing, down by 18,000 from November and by 66,000 from the 1995 high posted in May.

Balance of opinion on employment prospects in the next three months and Manufacturing employment as reported by the Labour Force Survey



Manufacturers lower their expectations about production

Manufacturers are slightly less confident about production prospects over the next three months than they were in October. Thirty-one percent of manufacturers expect to lower production, up from 29% in October. In January 1995, 19% expected to decrease production. The balance of opinion changed from +1 in October to -2 in January.

Manufacturers remain concerned about orders received

The balance of opinion concerning current levels of orders received was at -18 in January, down from -14 in the October survey. These results are consistent with the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, which reported that new orders dropped from a high of $33.2 billion in January 1995 to $32.4 billion in November.

The balance of opinion concerning the backlog of unfilled orders increased 2 points to -17 between October 1995 and January 1996. Despite this slight increase the balance is a long way below the +6 posted in the January 1995 survey.

Less concern about shortage of skilled labour

A shortage of skilled labour is a concern for only 3% of manufacturers, down from 5% in the October 1995 survey. This is to be expected, given that manufacturers expect to decrease employment in the coming three months.

Concern about shortages of working capital decreased 1 percentage point to 4%. Concern about shortages of raw materials remained at 3%, down from a high of 7% in April 1995. A full 87% of manufacturers stated that they have no production difficulties; this compares with 84% in January 1995.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2843-2845.

For further information on this release, contact Claude Robillard (613-951-3507), Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section, Industry Division. □

Business Conditions Survey, manufacturing industries

	Jan. 1995	April 1995	July 1995	Oct. 1995	Jan. 1996
	seasonally adjusted				
Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:					
about the same	42	61	50	41	40
higher	39	14	23	30	29
lower	19	25	27	29	31
Balance	20	-11	-4	1	-2
Orders received are:					
about the same	61	63	53	46	44
rising	30	20	19	20	19
declining	9	17	28	34	37
Balance	21	3	-9	-14	-18
Present backlog of unfilled orders is:					
about normal	56	72	54	51	53
higher than normal	25	15	15	15	15
lower than normal	19	13	31	34	32
Balance	6	2	-16	-19	-17
Finished-product inventory on hand is:					
about right	80	73	77	77	68
too low	5	6	4	4	5
too high[1]	15	21	19	19	27
Balance	-10	-15	-15	-15	-22
Employment during the next three months will:					
change little	75	71	68	72	70
increase	14	14	14	12	10
decrease	11	15	18	16	20
Balance	3	-1	-4	-4	-10
	unadjusted				
Sources of production difficulties					
Working capital shortage	2	5	3	5	4
Skilled labour shortage	4	4	4	5	3
Unskilled labour shortage	0	0	0	0	0
Raw material shortage	6	7	5	3	3
Other difficulties	3	2	3	2	2
No difficulties	84	83	85	85	87

[1] *No evident seasonality.*

■

Stocks of grain

December 31, 1995

At December 31, 1995, stocks of wheat on farms remained below normal levels, virtually unchanged from 1994 year-end. Stocks of barley, Canada's major feed grain, increased by 2%.

Demand for wheat and barley is strong in the domestic and international markets. Moreover, prices for wheat and feed grains are at their highest levels in recent years, so there should be good returns for those farmers who sell these crops.

After the 1995 harvest, the total supply of wheat (including carry-over) was lower than a year earlier. These supplies were then depleted by producer marketings, to a level 10 000 tonnes lower than at 1994 year-end.

Barley stocks at the end of 1995 increased by 170 000 tonnes, due to higher production last year. Larger marketings and the amounts fed to livestock did not completely offset the higher post-harvest supplies.

Field crop reporting series no. 1: Stocks of Canadian grain at December 31, 1995 (22-002, $15/$85) is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Tony Dupuis (613-951-0572) or Dave Burroughs (613-951-5138), Crops Section, Agriculture Division.

Stocks of grain at December 31

	1994	1995	1994 to 1995
	'000 tonnes		% change
Wheat excluding durum	11 660	11 650	-0.1
Barley	7 925	8 095	2.1
Corn	3 890	3 725	-4.2
Canola	2 860	3 380	18.2
Durum wheat	3 280	3 150	-4.0
Oats	2 350	1 555	-33.8
Soybeans	729	660	-9.5
Flaxseed	500	565	13.0

■

OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms

Week ending January 27, 1996 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending January 27, 1996 totalled 286 492 tonnes, up 4.7% from 273 735 tonnes a week earlier, but down 3.3% from 296 382 tonnes a year earlier.

The year-to-date total at the end of the week was 1 043 198 tonnes, a 6.1% decrease from 1 110 422 tonnes for the same period in 1995.

For further information on this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-9827), Industry Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending January 14, 1996

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending January 14, 1996 decreased 6.6% to 4.4 million tonnes. The number of cars loaded decreased 5.7% from the same period of last year.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage during the seven days totalled 272 000 tonnes, a 16.2% decrease from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures showed a decrease of 17.2%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 7.2% during the seven-day period. This brought the year-to-date total to 8.5 million tonnes, a 7.4% decrease from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2528, fax: 613-951-0579), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

Trends in the business population

Fourth quarter 1995

In 1995, the number of businesses with employees remained essentially unchanged. An increase in the business population during the fourth quarter more than compensated for losses in the second and third quarters. Comparing the third and fourth quarters of 1995, the business population increased by only 0.16% to 928,726.

Seasonally adjusted, the number of businesses that remitted payroll deduction accounts decreased in all Atlantic provinces and Ontario. Gains were recorded in Quebec, British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. As well, there was a net gain in the Prairie provinces, where increases in Alberta and Manitoba offset a loss in Saskatchewan.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1420.

For further information on this release, contact Des Beckstead (613-951-6199), Business Register Division. ■

Cement

December 1995

Manufacturers shipped 490 582 tonnes of cement in December, a 27.4% decline from 675 656 tonnes in December 1994 and a 39.8% drop from 815 339 tonnes (revised) in November 1995.

For January to December 1995, year-to-date shipments totalled 10 440 329 tonnes (revised), down 1.4% from 10 584 414 tonnes during the same period in 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 92 and 122 (series 35).

The December 1995 issue of *Cement* (44-001-XPB, $6/$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527), Industry Division. ■

Cancer statistics

1992

A total of 112,864 new cases of invasive cancer were diagnosed in 1992, a 3% increase over the 109,442 cases diagnosed in 1991. Data for both years exclude non-melanoma skin cancers.

Cancer incidence data for 1992 are now available. These include data on new cases of cancer diagnosed in Canada in 1992, as reported by all provincial and territorial cancer registries.

For further information on this release, contact Leslie Gaudette (613-951-1740), Judy Lee (613-951-1775) or the Information Requests Unit (613-951-1746), Health Statistics Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Field crop reporting series no. 1: Stocks of Canadian grain at December 31, 1995, vol. 75, no. 1
Catalogue number 22-002
(Canada: $15/$85; United States: US$18/US$102; other countries: US$21/US$119).

Production and inventories of process cheese and instant skim milk powder, December 1995
Catalogue number 32-024-XPB
(Canada: $6/$60; United States: US$8/US$72; other countries: US$9/US$84).

Pack of canned tomatoes and tomato products, 1995
Catalogue number 32-237-XPB
(Canada: $14; United States: US$17; other countries: US$20).

Construction type plywood, November 1995
Catalogue number 35-001
(Canada: $6/$60; United States: US$8/US$72; other countries: US$9/US$84).

Production, shipments and stocks on hand of sawmills east of the Rockies, November 1995
Catalogue number 35-002
(Canada: $11/$110; United States: US$14/US$132; other countries: US$16/US$154).

Production, shipments and stocks on hand of sawmills in British Columbia, November 1995
Catalogue number 35-003
(Canada: $8/$80; United States: US$10/US$96; other countries: US$12/US$112).

Rigid insulating board, December 1995
Catalogue number 36-002-XPB
(Canada: $6/$60; United States: US$8/US$72; other countries: US$9/US$84).

Corrugated boxes and wrappers, December 1995
Catalogue number 36-004
(Canada: $6/$60; United States: US$8/US$72; other countries: US$9/US$84).

Electric lamps, December 1995
Catalogue number 43-009-XPB
(Canada: $6/$60; United States: US$8/US$72; other countries: US$9/US$84).

Gypsum products, December 1995
Catalogue number 44-003-XPB
(Canada: $6/$60; United States: US$8/US$72; other countries: US$9/US$84).

Imports by commodity, November 1995
Catalogue number 65-0070XMB
(Canada: $35/$350; United States: US$42/US$420; other countries: US$49/US$490).

Imports by commodity, November 1995
Catalogue number 65-0070XPB
(Canada: $75/$750; United States: US$90/US$900; other countries: US$105/US$1,050).

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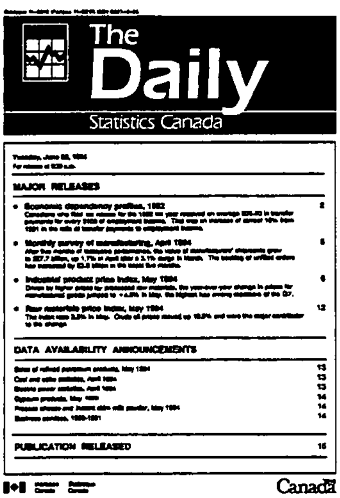

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