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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, March 15, 1996
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

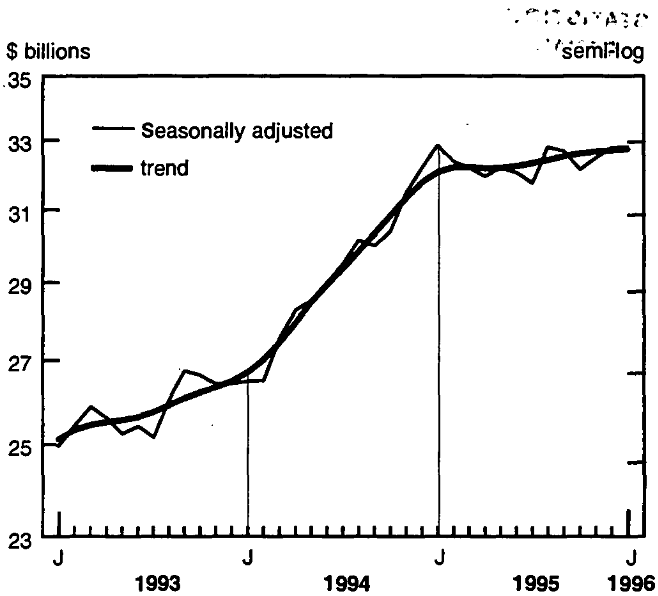
OTHER RELEASES

MAJOR RELEASES

Monthly survey of manufacturing
January 1996

Manufacturers, having experienced virtually no growth in shipments since the beginning of 1995, gained little ground in January.

Shipments little changed



Total manufacturing shipments remained at $32.8 billion, as growth in the electrical and electronic products and the chemical products industries was offset by weakness in the auto and parts, and the paper and allied products industries. Twelve of the 22 major groups (accounting for 48.6% of total shipments) recorded increases. Shipments are still just shy of the all-time high reached in January 1995.

At the same time, inventories were also little changed in January, holding at $45.2 billion. The flat picture in both inventories and shipments resulted in no noticeable change to the inventories-to-shipments ratio, which remained at 1.38.

Unfilled orders rose for the second consecutive month, following decreases in six of the seven previous months.

Definitions

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

New orders *represent orders received whether shipped in the current month or not. They are measured as the sum of shipments for the current month (that is, orders received this month and shipped within the same month) plus the change in unfilled orders.*

Auto sector lethargic; electronic industry rebounds

Manufacturing shipments were little changed in January (+0.1%), and remained at a level of $32.8 billion. A sharp rise in shipments of electrical and electronic products (+6.3%) led the increases, while chemical products (+4.6%) and machinery (+8.4%) also increased substantially. All three industries bounced back from poor December results.

These increases were offset by significant declines in the motor vehicle and parts sector (-2.9%), and the paper and allied products industry (-4.0%). Sluggish demand, and the resultant idling of productive capacity that prevented motor vehicle shipments from growing in 1995, persisted into 1996, as shipments of motor vehicles (-1.9%) and motor vehicle parts (-5.3%) both fell. This ninth monthly decline since the peak in January 1995 left motor vehicle shipments 13.1% below the January 1995 level.

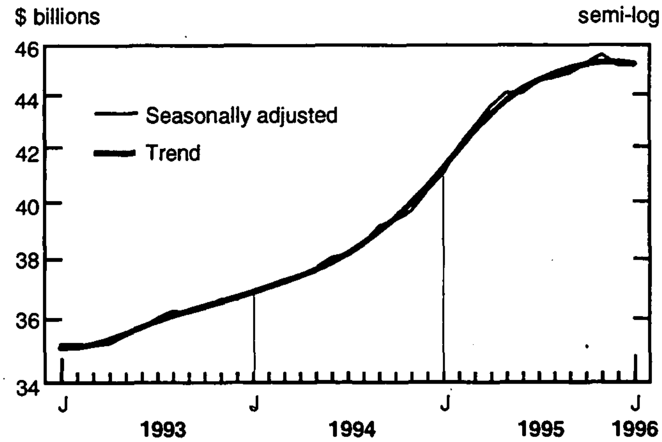
The paper and allied products industry has been curtailing shipments and slowing production in an effort to combat weakening world demand. This month's substantial drop, though only the second significant decline in over a year, may signal the end of the long run-up in this volatile sector. The fall in shipments can be partly attributed to a 2.1% decline in prices.

January's overall result comes on the heels of a year-long struggle by manufacturers to break new ground, which met with little success: shipments grew at an average monthly rate of 0.1% in 1995, compared with 1.7% in 1994.

Inventories also flat

Inventories (at $45.2 billion) were little changed in January. Coming on the heels of December's sharp decline, January's flat result provides more evidence that inventory growth may finally be slowing after the prolonged accumulation of the last three years.

Inventory growth may be slowing



Decreases were observed in the aircraft and parts (-3.9%), the motor vehicle (-5.6%), and the machinery (-2.0%) industries.

Significant offsetting increases were recorded in the paper and allied products (+3.2%) and the food (+1.6%) industries. This was the eighteenth increase in the paper and allied products industry in as many months. Inventories in this industry now stand 34.4% higher than they were in January of 1995.

The most recent Business Conditions Survey indicated that manufacturers in general were not happy with the level of finished product inventories at the beginning of January, and felt they might have to cut both production and employment in the first quarter as a result.

The flat picture in both shipments and inventories resulted in no noticeable change in the inventories-to-shipments ratio, which remained at 1.38. (A rising inventories-to-shipments ratio points to a possible oversupply and suggests that output may have to be curbed in the future.)

Unfilled orders showing some strength

Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders, a key determinant of future shipments, increased for the second straight month in January, rising 0.5% to $32.7 billion. The two recent increases have only partially reversed the effect of steep declines observed after April 1995, when unfilled orders reached an all-time high. Unfilled orders in January stood 5.4% below the April peak.

The increase was propelled by the aircraft and parts industry (+2.5), which continues to grow in strength. Unfilled orders for the electrical and electronic parts (+3.5%) and the machinery (+3.1%) industries also rose.

These rises were overshadowed by continued weakness in the motor vehicles industry which, with a decline of 8.1%, recorded the largest of nine consecutive drops.

New orders, mirroring unfilled orders, increased by 0.4%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9579, 9581 and 9582.

The January 1996 issue of *Monthly survey of manufacturing* (31-001, $19/$190) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

Detailed data on shipments by province are available on request. For further information, contact Robert Traversy, Information and Classification Section (613-951-9497), or the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section, (613-951-9832), Industry Division. □

Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

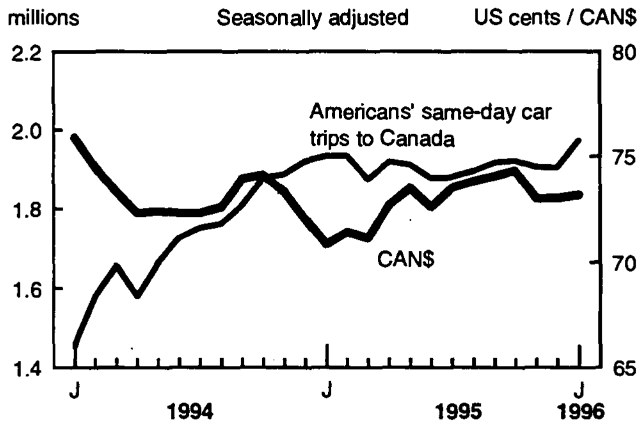
	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventories-to-shipments ratio
	seasonally adjusted								
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	
January 1995	32,830	2.0	41,055	1.5	33,848	1.0	33,173	1.3	1.25
February 1995	32,353	-1.5	42,036	2.4	34,323	1.4	32,828	-1.0	1.30
March 1995	32,177	-0.5	42,774	1.8	34,428	0.3	32,281	-1.7	1.33
April 1995	31,927	-0.8	43,547	1.8	34,519	0.3	32,018	-0.8	1.36
May 1995	32,164	0.7	44,071	1.2	34,343	-0.5	31,987	-0.1	1.37
June 1995	32,038	-0.4	44,058	0.0	33,750	-1.7	31,445	-1.7	1.38
July 1995	31,743	-0.9	44,563	1.1	34,083	1.0	32,077	2.0	1.40
August 1995	32,785	3.3	44,675	0.3	33,643	-1.3	32,346	0.8	1.36
September 1995	32,678	-0.3	44,856	0.4	33,104	-1.6	32,139	-0.6	1.37
October 1995	32,115	-1.7	45,244	0.9	32,741	-1.1	31,752	-1.2	1.41
November 1995	32,470	1.1	45,592	0.8	32,437	-0.9	32,166	1.3	1.40
December 1995	32,756	0.9	45,178	-0.9	32,492	0.2	32,811	2.0	1.38
January 1996	32,798	0.1	45,155	-0.1	32,654	0.5	32,959	0.4	1.38

■

Travel between Canada and other countries
January 1996

Americans' same-day car trips to Canada increased 3.7% to 2.0 million in January, the highest number of such excursions recorded since June 1981. At that time, the Canadian dollar was worth US83 cents, compared with US73 cents in January 1996.

Americans' same-day car trips to Canada reached a 15-year high in January



After dropping to a recent low of 1.5 million trips in January 1994, same-day car trips by Americans to Canada were on the rise throughout 1994. This type of travel fluctuated from month to month in 1995.

Same-day cross-border car trips are often used as an indicator of cross-border shopping. According to the most recent annual data available, Americans reported shopping on 71% of their car excursions to Canada in 1994, a proportion that has been relatively stable over the last five years.

Note to readers

Month-to-month comparisons use seasonally adjusted data (data adjusted for variations that repeat annually and for variability caused by the different volumes of travellers associated with different days of the week).

Year-over-year comparisons use unadjusted data (the actual traffic counts).

Overseas countries are countries other than the United States.

Excursions are same-day trips.

Characteristics of international travellers for the first quarter of 1996 will be available August 27.

Meanwhile, the number of Canadians' excursions to the United States by car also increased (+1.5%) to 3.0 million trips. This type of travel has been relatively stable since mid-1994, remaining well below the peak of 5.4 million trips reached when the Canadian dollar was worth US88 cents in November 1991.

Same-day cross-border car trips

	Americans to Canada		Canadians to the United States	
	Jan. 1996[p]	Jan. 1995 to Jan. 1996	Jan. 1996[p]	Jan. 1995 to Jan. 1996
	unadjusted			
	'000	% change	'000	% change
Canada	**1,444**	**3.3**	**2,455**	**-2.7**
Place of entry/re-entry				
New Brunswick	98	-3.2	374	-2.7
Quebec	68	-1.5	199	-3.2
Ontario	1,120	6.9	1,187	-0.4
Manitoba	14	-15.0	37	-3.7
Saskatchewan	4	1.0	15	-14.4
Alberta	5	-13.5	10	-18.6
British Columbia	134	-11.9	633	-5.8
Yukon	1	-22.2	–	-38.7

p *preliminary figures.*
– *less than 500.*

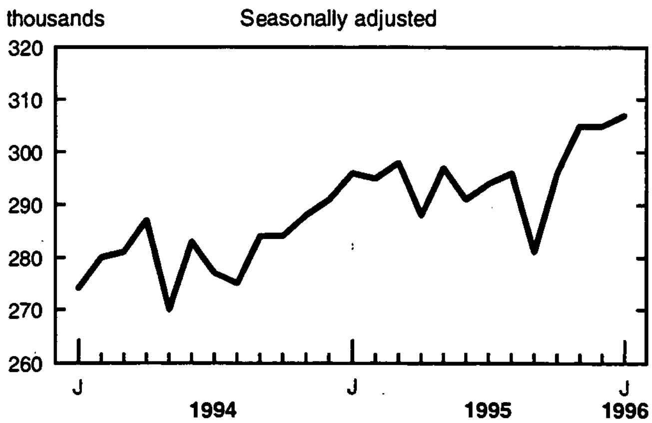
Canadians made a record number of trips overseas in January

Canadians' overnight trips outside the country increased by 3.9% in January 1996, to reach 1.6 million trips. The majority of these trips (1.3 million) were to the United States, 4.8% more than in December.

Overnight trips to the United States have dropped from the December 1991 high of 1.8 million trips to their most recent low of 1.1 million trips in August 1994. Since then, they have been inching upward.

Countries other than the United States continued to attract Canadians in growing numbers. The long-term upward trend in this type of travel progressed in January, with Canadians making a record 307,000 overnight trips overseas.

Canadians made a record number of trips overseas in January



Foreigners' overnight trips to Canada decreased slightly

Foreigners made 1.4 million trips of at least one night to Canada in January, a 0.8% decrease from December. This was due to a 1.2% drop in overnight trips by Americans who made 1.1 million trips of at least one night to Canada. Overnight travel to Canada by Americans has been relatively stable over the past year.

Overnight trips to Canada by overseas residents increased slightly (+0.4%) from the previous month, to 333,000 trips. While this type of travel has been generally increasing since mid-1992, January's level was still 7.2% below the peak level recorded in October 1995.

Trips of one or more nights to Canada by residents of selected overseas countries

	Jan. 1996p	Jan. 1995 to Jan. 1996
	unadjusted	
	'000	% change
Origin		
Europe	**63**	**6.9**
France	12	27.8
Germany	12	12.6
United Kingdom	19	7.0
Other Europe	20	-5.5
Asia	**49**	**3.1**
Hong Kong	5	-37.8
Japan	22	5.6
South Korea	7	44.1
Taiwan	3	10.4
Other Asia	11	12.1
Other Countries	**22**	**-3.6**
Australia	8	7.6
Other Countries	14	-8.8

p *preliminary figures.*

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2661-2697, 5780-6046 and 8200-8328.

The January 1996 issue of *International travel, advance information* (66-001-PPB, $7/$70) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Ruth Martin (613-951-1791, fax: 613-951-2909), International Travel Section, Education, Culture and Tourism Division. □

Travel between Canada and other countries

	Nov. 1995[r]	Dec. 1995[r]	Jan. 1996[p]	Dec. 1995 to Jan. 1996
	seasonally adjusted			
	'000			% change
Canadian trips abroad				
Car trips to the United States				
Same-day	2,962	2,950	2,995	1.5
One or more nights	783	769	804	4.5
Total trips, one or more nights				
United States[1]	1,237	1,225	1,284	4.8
Other countries	305	305	307	0.6
Travel to Canada				
Car trips from the United States				
Same-day	1,906	1,904	1,974	3.7
One or more nights	665	725	654	-9.9
Total trips, one or more nights				
United States[1]	1,069	1,086	1,073	-1.2
Other countries[2]	336	332	333	0.4

	Jan. 1996[p]	Jan. 1995 to Jan. 1996
	unadjusted	
	'000	% change
Canadian trips abroad		
Car trips to the United States		
Same-day	2,455	-2.7
One or more nights	506	-4.1
Total trips, one or more nights		
United States[1]	993	3.6
Other countries	427	2.2
Travel to Canada		
Car trips from the United States		
Same-day	1,444	3.3
One or more nights	246	-12.1
Total trips, one or more nights		
United States[1]	432	-2.0
Other countries[2]	133	3.6

1 *Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.*
2 *Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.*
p *Preliminary figures.*
r *Revised figures.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Construction union wage rate index
February 1996

The construction union wage rate index (including supplements) remained unchanged in February 1996 from January's level of 137.7. On a year-over-year basis, the composite index increased 0.1% to 137.7 in February 1996 from 137.5 in February 1995.

Construction union wage rates and indexes (1986 = 100) comprise union wage rates for 16 trades in 22 metropolitan areas (including the basic rate and rates that include selected supplementary payments) and indexes for those cities where a majority of trades are covered by collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 956, 958 and 2033-2038.

The first quarter 1996 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007, $23/$76) will be available in June 1996. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Paul-Roméo Danis (613-951-3350, Internet: shadsan@statcan.ca, fax: 613-951-2848), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

Selected financial indexes
February 1996

February 1996 figures are now available for the selected financial indexes (1986=100).

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2031.

The first quarter 1996 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007, $23/$76), will be available in June. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Paul-Roméo Danis (613-951-3350, Internet: shadsan@statcan.ca, fax: 613-951-2848), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

Railway carloadings
Seven-day period ending February 21, 1996

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending February 21, 1996, increased 6.0% from the same period last year to 4.7 million tonnes; the number of cars loaded increased 2.8%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 292 000 tonnes, a 1.8% decrease from the same seven-day period of 1995. The year-to-date figures showed an increase of 10.3% from last year.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 5.5% during seven days. This brought the 1996 year-to-date total to 33.4 million tonnes, a 6.1% 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. ■

Shipments of rolled steel
January 1996

Rolled steel shipments for January 1996 totalled 1 176 431 tonnes, up 17.1% from 1 004 957 tonnes in December 1995 and up 4.4% from 1 126 653 tonnes in January 1995.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 58 and 122 (series 22-25).

The January 1996 issue of *Primary iron and steel* (41-001-XPB, $6/$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

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

Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM
First quarter 1996

Inter-corporate ownership CD-ROM is an essential research tool for researching and monitoring the Canadian business scene and for keeping on top of the constantly changing corporate world. Its database covers more than 80,000 corporations and provides valuable data on parent firm, country of control, province of head office and percentage of owned voting rights. A sophisticated retrieval system allows rapid searching for such information on any of the listed corporations.

Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM can be purchased as a single issue for $1,750 or as an annual subscription for $3,000. A 50% discount is available to Canadian educational institutions.

For further details about this product, or to obtain a demonstration diskette, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

Average prices of selected farm inputs
February 1996

Data on the average prices of selected farm inputs for February 1996 are now available by geographic region.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 550-582.

For further information on this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-9606), Prices Division. ■

Annual survey of manufactures
1994

The Annual Survey of Manufactures provides information on over 200 different industries. Principal statistics for each industry will be released as they become available. Data for the industries listed below are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5385, 5402, 5479, 5498, 5499, 5520, 5521, 5523, 5546, 5569, 5576, 6854 and 6871.

Data for the industries listed in the table will appear in *Food industries* (32-250-XPB, $38), *Beverage and tobacco products industries* (32-251-XPB, $38), *Furniture and fixture industries* (35-251-XPB, $38), *Printing, publishing and allied industries* (36-251-XPB, $38), *Fabricated metal products industries* (41-251-XPB, $38), *Machinery industries (except electrical machinery)* (42-250-XPB, $38), *Electrical and electronic products industries* (43-250-XPB, $38), *Non-metallic mineral products industries* (44-250-XPB, $38) and *Chemical and chemical products industries* (46-250-XPB, $38). The publications will be released at a later date. See "How to order publications". □

Value of shipments

	1993	1994	1993 to 1994	Catalogue	Contact (613)	
	$ millions		%change			
Industry (SIC)						
Fluid milk (1041)	3,478.2	3,395.2	-2.4	32-250-XPB	P. Zylstra	951-3511
Soft drink (1111)	2,361.0	2,298.6	-2.6	32-251-XPB	P. Zylstra	951-3511
Bed spring and mattress (2691)	391.2	417.9	6.8	35-251-XPB	D. Higgins	951-9837
Other commercial printing (2819)	5,242.2	5,666.6	8.1	36-251-XPB	S. O'Brien	951-3514
Platemaking, typesetting and bindery (2821)	1,100.3	1,088.0	-1.1	36-251-XPB	S. O'Brien	951-3514
Other fabricated structural metal products (3029)	943.4	1,043.1	10.6	41-251-XPB	D. Higgins	951-9837
Metal doors and windows (3031)	921.6	1,018.0	10.5	41-251-XPB	D. Higgins	951-9837
Other ornamental and architectural metal products (3039)	581.7	639.4	9.9	41-251-XPB	D. Higgins	951-9837
Turbine and mechanical power transmission equipment (3194)	1,391.2	1,265.9	-9.0	42-250-XPB	L. Vincent	951-3523
Major appliances (electric and non-electric) (3321)	917.3	946.3	3.2	43-250-XPB	L. Vincent	951-3523
Other communication and electronic equipment (3359)	2,460.7	2,618.7	6.4	43-250-XPB	L. Vincent	951-3523
Other concrete products (3549)	420.9	447.5	6.3	44-250-XPB	S. O'Brien	951-3514
Industrial organic chemical, n.e.c. (3712)	3,951.5	5,172.3	30.9	46-250-XPB	B. Meyer	951-3528

■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Refined petroleum products, December 1995
Catalogue number 45-004-XPB
(Canada: $20/$200; United States: US$24/US$240; other countries: US$28/US$280).

Department store sales and stocks, December 1995
Catalogue number 63-002-XPB
(Canada: $16/$160; United States: US$20/US$192; other countries: US$23/US$224).

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences - Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 - 1984.
∞

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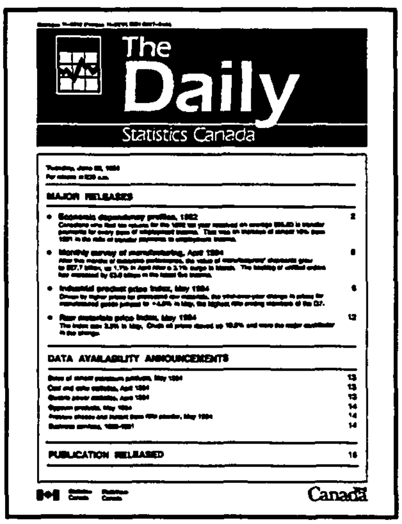

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RELEASE DATES

March 18-22

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
20	**Retail trade**	January 1996
21	**Canadian economic observer**	March 1996
21	**Wholesale trade**	January 1996
22	**Tuberculosis**	1994

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