

# Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, November 2023

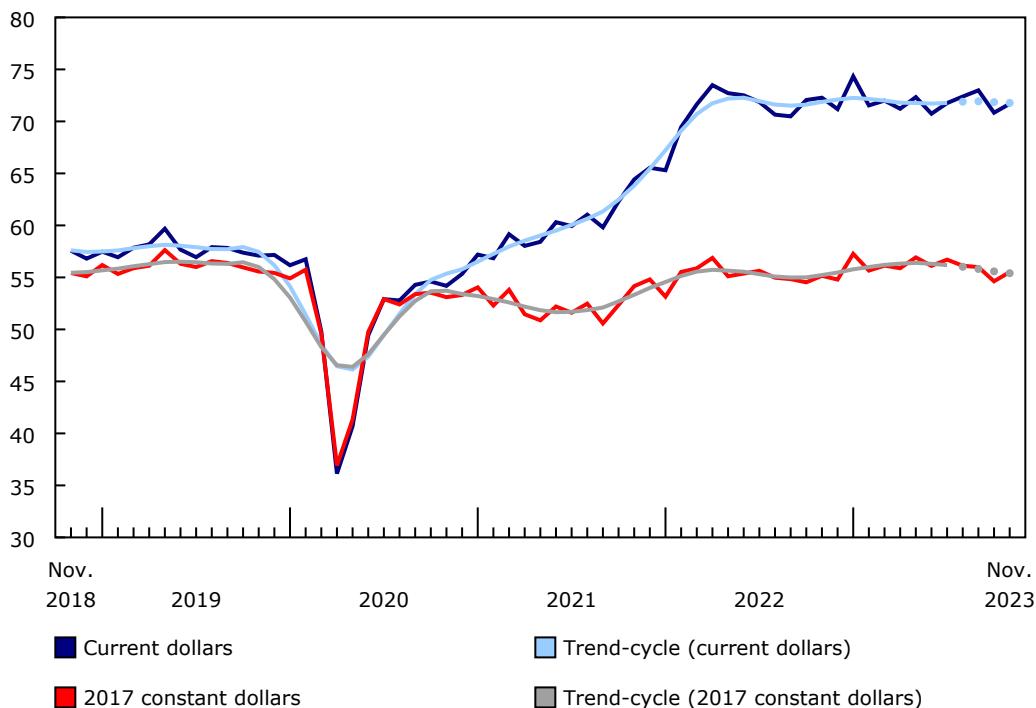
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Monday, January 15, 2024

Canadian manufacturing sales increased 1.2% to \$71.7 billion in November, mainly on higher sales in the chemical (+6.6%), primary metal (+4.0%) and machinery (+4.3%) subsectors. Sales in the motor vehicle industry group (-4.0%) declined the most. On a year-over-year basis, total sales were down 0.8% in November.

Sales in constant dollars rose 1.6% in November, indicating that increased sales were driven by higher volumes as the [Industrial Product Price Index](#) fell 0.4% in November.

**Chart 1**  
**Manufacturing sales**

billions of dollars



**Note(s):** Data are seasonally adjusted. The higher variability associated with the trend-cycle estimates is indicated with a dotted line on the chart for the current reference month and the three previous months. For more information, see the Note to readers.

**Source(s):** Tables [16-10-0047-01](#) and [16-10-0013-01](#).

## Sales of chemical products lead monthly increase

Following three consecutive monthly declines, sales of chemical products rose 6.6% to \$5.6 billion in November, on higher volume of sales (+10.1%). Several petrochemical plants returned to normal production after shutdowns that began in September. The increase in sales of chemical products was more pronounced in the basic chemical (+11.3%) and pharmaceutical and medicine (+9.7%) industry groups. Despite the monthly gain, year-over-year sales of chemical products were down 1.1% in November.



Following three consecutive monthly declines, sales of primary metal products rose 4.0% to \$5.6 billion in November, mainly on higher volumes (+3.9%). The gains were primarily attributable to higher sales of non-ferrous metals (except aluminum) (+13.8%). Prices for non-ferrous metal (except aluminum) production and processing increased 1.2% in November.

Sales of motor vehicles fell 4.0% to \$5.2 billion in November, the second consecutive monthly decline. The continuation of a shutdown at a major auto assembly plant in Ontario for retooling contributed the most to the decrease. Despite the monthly decline, sales of motor vehicles were 26.8% higher on a year-over-year basis in November. [Exports of motor vehicles and parts](#) rose 1.4% in November.

## **Sales increase in seven provinces, led by Ontario and Quebec**

Manufacturing sales increased in seven provinces in November, led by Ontario and Quebec, while New Brunswick recorded the largest decline.

In Ontario, sales increased 1.6% to \$31.9 billion in November, following three consecutive monthly declines. Higher sales of basic chemicals (+37.8%) and pharmaceutical and medicine products (+26.6%) were responsible for the increase. Sales of motor vehicles posted the largest decrease, down 5.0% to \$4.8 billion in November. On a year-over-year basis, total sales in Ontario were up 1.9% in November.

In Quebec, sales increased 1.2% to \$17.9 billion in November, mainly on higher sales in the primary metal subsector (+5.4%) as production ramped up in many non-ferrous metal plants. The increase was partly offset by lower sales of petroleum and coal products.

Leading the provincial decline was New Brunswick, where sales fell 5.4% to \$1.8 billion in November, the second consecutive monthly decrease. The decline was concentrated in the nondurable goods subsector (-7.6%). Total sales were down 16.6% year over year in November.

## **Total inventories continue to increase**

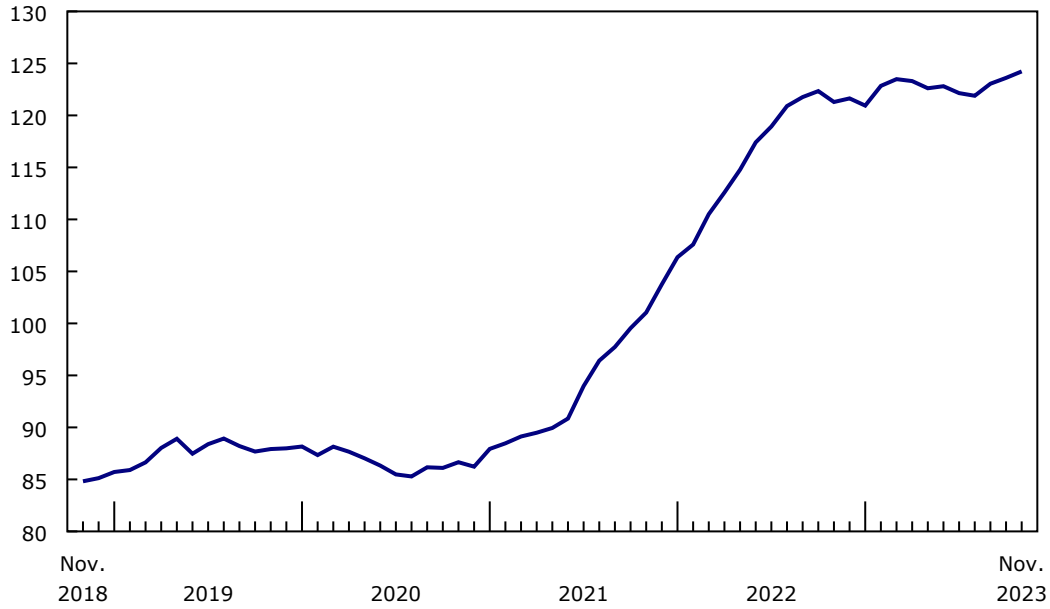
Total inventories rose 0.5% to \$124.2 billion in November, the highest level on record, driven by higher goods in process (+1.1%) and finished product (+0.6%) inventories. Higher inventories of transportation equipment (+2.3%), machinery (+2.0%) and petroleum and coal (+2.1%) led the increase.

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**Chart 2**  
**Inventory levels increase**

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billions of dollars



**Note(s):** Data are seasonally adjusted.  
**Source(s):** Table [16-10-0047-01](#).

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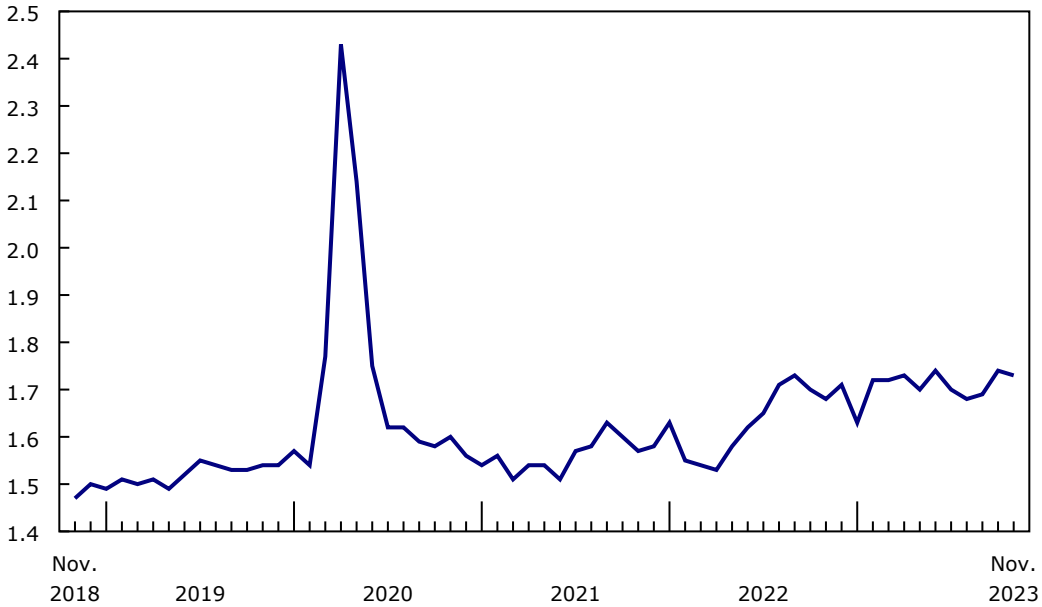
The inventory-to-sales ratio declined from 1.74 in October to 1.73 in November. This ratio measures the time, in months, that would be required to exhaust inventories if sales were to remain at their current level.

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### Chart 3 The inventory-to-sales ratio decreases

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ratio



**Note(s):** Data are seasonally adjusted.  
**Source(s):** Table [16-10-0047-01](#).

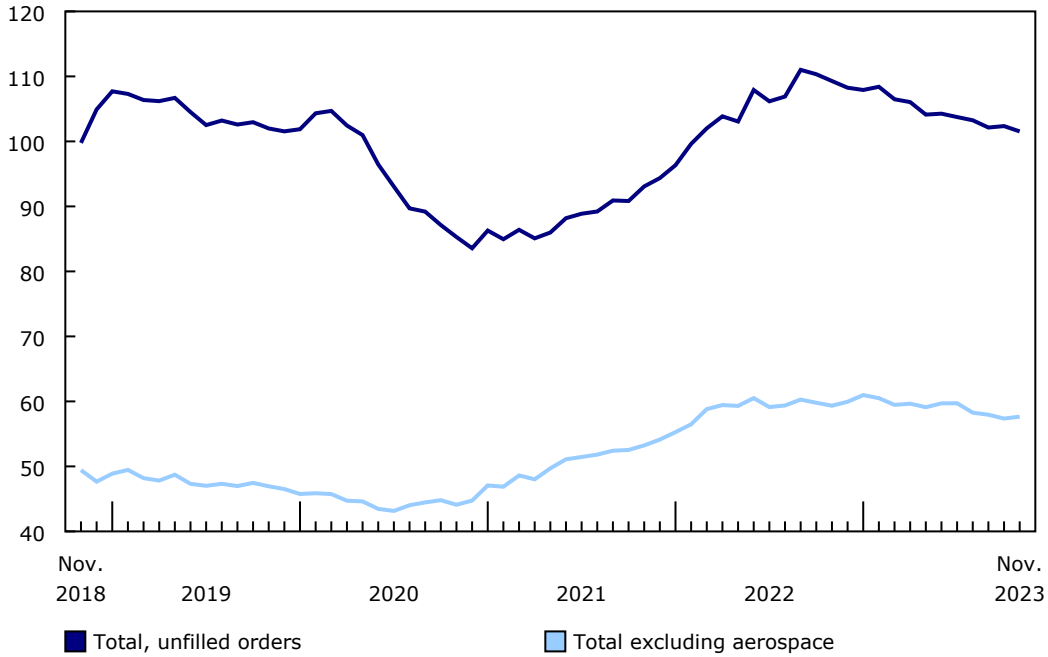
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### Unfilled orders decrease

The total value of unfilled orders declined 0.8% to \$101.5 billion in November, primarily due to a 2.5% decline in unfilled orders of aerospace products and parts. As 2023 neared its end, many aerospace manufacturers were filling their backlog orders, resulting in lower total unfilled orders.

**Chart 4**  
**Unfilled orders decrease**

billions of dollars



**Note(s):** Data are seasonally adjusted.  
**Source(s):** Table 16-10-0047-01.

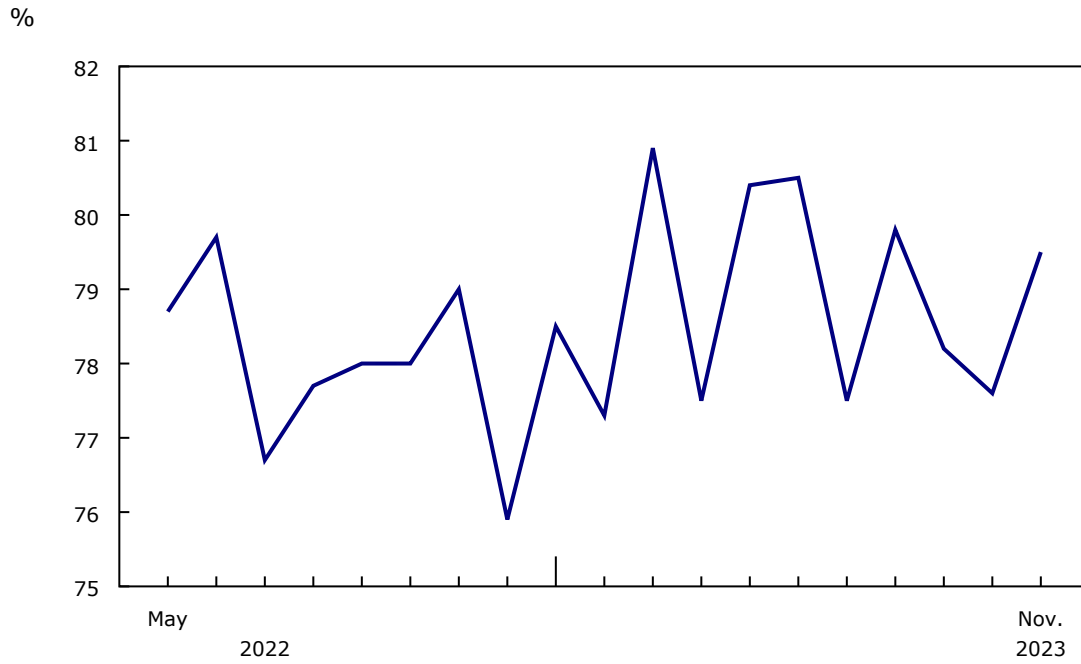
**Capacity utilization rate increases**

The capacity utilization rate (not seasonally adjusted) for the total manufacturing sector increased from 77.6% in October to 79.5% in November, on higher production. Capacity utilization rates were up in the transportation equipment (+4.3 percentage points), chemical (+4.5 percentage points), and petroleum and coal (+2.8 percentage points) subsectors. These increases were partly offset by lower capacity utilization rates in the beverage and tobacco (-3.3 percentage points) and wood (-1.5 percentage points) subsectors.

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**Chart 5**  
**The capacity utilization rate increases**

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**Note(s):** Data are not seasonally adjusted.  
**Source(s):** Table [16-10-0012-01](#).

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**Table 1**  
**Manufacturing: Principal statistics – Seasonally adjusted**

	November 2022	October 2023 <sup>r</sup>	November 2023 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023
	millions of dollars			% change <sup>1</sup>	
Manufacturing sales (current dollars)	72,277	70,836	71,691	1.2	-0.8
Manufacturing sales (2017 constant dollars)	55,151	54,628	55,507	1.6	0.6
Manufacturing sales (current dollars) excluding motor vehicles, parts and accessories	65,455	62,512	63,474	1.5	-3.0
Inventories	121,288	123,606	124,228	0.5	2.4
Unfilled orders	109,289	102,354	101,534	-0.8	-7.1
New orders	71,232 <sup>E</sup>	71,056 <sup>E</sup>	70,871 <sup>E</sup>	-0.3	-0.5
Inventory-to-sales ratio <sup>2</sup>	1.68	1.74	1.73	...	...

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

... not applicable

<sup>E</sup> use with caution

1. Percentage 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): Tables [16-10-0047-01](#) and [16-10-0013-01](#).

**Table 2**  
**Manufacturing sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted**

	November 2022	October 2023 <sup>r</sup>	November 2023 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023
	millions of dollars			% change <sup>1</sup>	
Food manufacturing	12,353	12,570	12,499	-0.6	1.2
Beverage and tobacco product	1,465	1,382	1,385	0.2	-5.5
Textile mills	164	157	152	-3.2	-6.8
Textile product mills	150	142	145	2.6	-3.2
Apparel manufacturing	347	235	271	15.6	-21.9
Leather and allied product	28	23	25	10.9	-10.6
Wood product	3,560	3,261	3,281	0.6	-7.8
Paper manufacturing	2,968	2,509	2,487	-0.9	-16.2
Printing and related support activities	759	764	763	-0.1	0.5
Petroleum and coal product	10,102	8,364	8,184	-2.2	-19.0
Chemical	5,680	5,266	5,615	6.6	-1.1
Plastics and rubber products	3,363	3,247	3,299	1.6	-1.9
Non-metallic mineral product	1,735	1,709	1,738	1.7	0.2
Primary metal	5,676	5,382	5,597	4.0	-1.4
Fabricated metal product	4,539	4,543	4,519	-0.5	-0.5
Machinery	4,224	4,469	4,659	4.3	10.3
Computer and electronic product	1,657	1,347	1,499	11.3	-9.6
Electrical equipment, appliance and component	1,161	1,232	1,277	3.6	10.0
Transportation equipment	9,590	11,698	11,800	0.9	23.0
Motor vehicle	4,082	5,395	5,178	-4.0	26.8
Motor vehicle body and trailer	440	502	518	3.2	17.8
Motor vehicle parts	2,739	2,928	3,039	3.8	11.0
Aerospace product and parts	1,605	2,220	2,168	-2.3	35.0
Railroad rolling stock	126	132	291	120.4	130.1
Ship and boat building	241	222	265	19.0	9.9
Furniture and related product	1,381	1,309	1,290	-1.5	-6.6
Miscellaneous manufacturing	1,374	1,228	1,206	-1.8	-12.2
Non-durable goods industries	37,380	34,659	34,826	0.5	-6.8
Durable goods industries	34,897	36,177	36,865	1.9	5.6

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. Percentage change calculated at thousands of dollars.

Source(s): Table 16-10-0047-01.



**Table 3**  
**Manufacturing sales: Provinces and territories – Seasonally adjusted**

	November 2022	October 2023 <sup>r</sup>	November 2023 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023
	millions of dollars			% change <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>72,277</b>	<b>70,836</b>	<b>71,691</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	344	260	263	1.1	-23.5
Prince Edward Island	267	285	266	-6.7	-0.6
Nova Scotia	881	909	887	-2.5	0.7
New Brunswick	2,158	1,901	1,799	-5.4	-16.6
Quebec	18,062	17,715	17,927	1.2	-0.7
Ontario	31,274	31,377	31,873	1.6	1.9
Manitoba	2,161	2,248	2,253	0.2	4.2
Saskatchewan	2,234	1,989	2,118	6.4	-5.2
Alberta	9,215	8,764	8,823	0.7	-4.3
British Columbia	5,675	5,383	5,477	1.8	-3.5
Yukon	3	3 <sup>E</sup>	4 <sup>E</sup>	29.1	41.8
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	3 <sup>E</sup>	2	2 <sup>E</sup>	-14.8	-34.6

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

<sup>E</sup> use with caution

1. Percentage change calculated at thousands of dollars.

Source(s): Tables [16-10-0047-01](#) and [16-10-0048-01](#).

**Table 4**  
**Manufacturing sales by selected census metropolitan area – Seasonally adjusted**

	November 2022	October 2023 <sup>r</sup>	November 2023 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023
	millions of dollars			% change <sup>1</sup>	
Halifax	265	252	246	-2.2	-6.9
Québec	2,443	1,995	1,938	-2.8	-20.7
Sherbrooke	264	257	268	4.6	1.8
Montréal	8,227	8,281	8,376	1.1	1.8
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario and Quebec	820	716	677	-5.4	-17.5
Toronto	12,371	13,082	13,250	1.3	7.1
Hamilton	2,076	1,939	1,965	1.3	-5.3
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	2,241	2,546	2,563	0.6	14.3
Windsor	1,623	1,053	1,201	14.1	-26.0
Winnipeg	1,084	1,193	1,141	-4.3	5.3
Regina	994	804	907	12.8	-8.7
Saskatoon	565	586	556	-5.2	-1.6
Calgary	1,210	1,330	1,350	1.5	11.6
Edmonton	4,521	4,149	4,201	1.3	-7.1
Vancouver	3,007	2,902	2,985	2.8	-0.7

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. Percentage change calculated at thousands of dollars.

Note(s): Data in this table are seasonally adjusted.

Source(s): Table [16-10-0011-01](#).

**Table 5**  
**Manufacturing capacity utilization rates by industry – Unadjusted**

	November 2022	October 2023 <sup>r</sup>	November 2023 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2023	November 2022 to November 2023
	%			percentage point change	
Manufacturing	79.0	77.6	79.5	1.9	0.5
Non-durable goods industries	78.8	75.7	77.7	2.0	-1.1
Food manufacturing	80.4 <sup>E</sup>	79.5 <sup>E</sup>	80.9 <sup>E</sup>	1.4	0.5
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing	74.7	67.4	64.1	-3.3	-10.6
Beverage manufacturing	77.4	66.6	65.9	-0.7	-11.5
Tobacco manufacturing	61.0	75.5	53.8	-21.7	-7.2
Textile mills	81.1	75.9	73.2	-2.7	-7.9
Textile product mills	76.4 <sup>E</sup>	73.1 <sup>E</sup>	71.8 <sup>E</sup>	-1.3	-4.6
Apparel manufacturing	84.0 <sup>E</sup>	80.2 <sup>E</sup>	80.2 <sup>E</sup>	0.0	-3.8
Leather and allied product manufacturing	79.3	76.2	75.3 <sup>E</sup>	-0.9	-4.0
Paper manufacturing	83.9	81.8	83.1	1.3	-0.8
Printing and related support activities	80.6 <sup>E</sup>	78.4 <sup>E</sup>	73.8 <sup>E</sup>	-4.6	-6.8
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing	82.5	76.9	79.7	2.8	-2.8
Chemical manufacturing	74.1	69.7 <sup>E</sup>	74.2 <sup>E</sup>	4.5	0.1
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	69.9 <sup>E</sup>	69.3	72.4 <sup>E</sup>	3.1	2.5
Plastic product manufacturing	69.7 <sup>E</sup>	67.5 <sup>E</sup>	71.4 <sup>E</sup>	3.9	1.7
Rubber product manufacturing	71.3	81.0	78.3 <sup>E</sup>	-2.7	7.0
Durable goods industries	79.1	79.6	81.3 <sup>E</sup>	1.7	2.2
Wood product manufacturing	81.6	79.0	77.5 <sup>E</sup>	-1.5	-4.1
Non-metallic mineral product manufacturing	76.6 <sup>E</sup>	75.5 <sup>E</sup>	74.2 <sup>E</sup>	-1.3	-2.4
Primary metal manufacturing	73.3	74.7	76.8	2.1	3.5
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	79.8 <sup>E</sup>	78.2 <sup>E</sup>	78.1 <sup>E</sup>	-0.1	-1.7
Machinery manufacturing	81.5 <sup>E</sup>	79.7 <sup>E</sup>	81.5 <sup>E</sup>	1.8	0.0
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	82.3	79.4	77.0 <sup>E</sup>	-2.4	-5.3
Electrical equipment, appliance and component manufacturing	84.8	80.2 <sup>E</sup>	84.7 <sup>E</sup>	4.5	-0.1
Transportation equipment manufacturing	79.3	83.5	87.8 <sup>E</sup>	4.3	8.5
Furniture and related product manufacturing	84.8 <sup>E</sup>	79.0 <sup>E</sup>	78.1 <sup>E</sup>	-0.9	-6.7
Miscellaneous manufacturing	78.7 <sup>E</sup>	79.5 <sup>E</sup>	79.4 <sup>E</sup>	-0.1	0.7

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

<sup>E</sup> use with caution

**Note(s):** Data in this table are not seasonally adjusted.

**Source(s):** Table 16-10-0012-01.

## Sustainable development goals

On January 1, 2016, the world officially began implementing the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)—the United Nations' transformative plan of action that addresses urgent global challenges over the following 15 years. The plan is based on 17 specific sustainable development goals.

The Monthly Survey of Manufacturing is an example of how Statistics Canada supports the reporting on the global sustainable development goals. This release will be used to help measure the following goal:



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## Note to readers

Monthly data in this release are seasonally adjusted and are expressed in current dollars, unless otherwise specified.

Seasonally adjusted data are data that have been modified to eliminate the effect of seasonal and calendar influences to allow for more meaningful comparisons of economic conditions from period to period. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

Trend-cycle estimates are included in selected charts as a complement to the seasonally adjusted series. These data represent a smoothed version of the seasonally adjusted time series and provide information on longer-term movements, including changes in direction underlying the series. For information on trend-cycle data, see [Trend-cycle estimates – Frequently asked questions](#).

Both seasonally adjusted data and trend-cycle estimates are subject to revision as additional observations become available. These revisions could be large and could even lead to a reversal of movement, especially for reference months near the end of the series or during periods of economic disruption.

**Non-durable goods industries** include food; beverage and tobacco products; textile mills; textile product mills; apparel; 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 metals; 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 and shipbuilding industry groups, the value of production is used instead of the value of sales of goods manufactured. The value of production is calculated by adjusting monthly sales of goods manufactured by the monthly change in inventories of goods in process and finished products manufactured. The value of production is used because of the extended period of time that it normally takes to manufacture products in these 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 sales, inventories and unfilled orders 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 established by the Bank of Canada is used for the conversion. The monthly average exchange rate is available in table 33-10-0163-01. Inventories and unfilled orders are reported at the end of the reference period. For most respondents, the daily average exchange rate on the last working day of the month is used for the conversion of these variables.

However, some manufacturers choose to report their data as of a day other than the last working day of the month. In these instances, the daily average exchange rate on the day selected by the respondent is used. Note that because of exchange rate fluctuations, the daily average exchange rate on the day selected by the respondent can differ from both the exchange rate on the last working day of the month and the monthly average exchange rate. Daily average exchange rate data are available in table 33-10-0036-01.

### Revision policy

Each month, the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing releases preliminary data for the reference month and revised data for the previous three months. Revisions are made to reflect new information provided by respondents and updates to administrative data.

Once a year, a revision project is undertaken to revise multiple years of data.

### Real-time data tables

Real-time data tables 16-10-0118-01, 16-10-0119-01, 16-10-0014-01 and 16-10-0015-01 will be updated on January 23.

### Next release

Data from the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing for December 2023 will be released on February 15, 2024.

Available tables: [16-10-0011-01](#) to [16-10-0013-01](#) , [16-10-0047-01](#) and [16-10-0048-01](#).

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

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](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or Media Relations ([statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca)).