

Prairie Update

ECONOMIC INDICATOR REPORT

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1988

July

•Regional Offices



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STATISTICS CANADA

PRAIRIE UPDATE

Economic Indicator Report

July 1988

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Source: Statistics Canada. Prepared using CANSIM (Statistics Canada's Computerized Data Bank).

(Aussi Disponible en Français)

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HIGHLIGHTS

ALBERTA:

Alberta's labour force and employment figures continue to show strength through the month of June. Employment within the province increased by 19,000 persons while the Labour Force increased by 14,000, resulting in a decline in the unemployment rate to 7.2%. Edmonton appears to be the bright spot this month with employment gains of 7,000 persons resulting in a unemployment rate of 7.3%, the city's lowest rate since June of 1982. This is the first month since November of 1983 that Edmonton's unemployment rate has dropped below Calgary's.

Calgary's employment gains were outweighed by the Labour Force increase of 6,000 persons, resulting in a rise in the city's unemployment rate to 7.9%.

SASKATCHEWAN:

Dwelling starts continue to decline in Saskatchewan. Data for the first five months of 1988 show that there were 293 fewer housing starts than during the same period in 1987. There were significant differences between Regina and Saskatoon. Details are shown below:

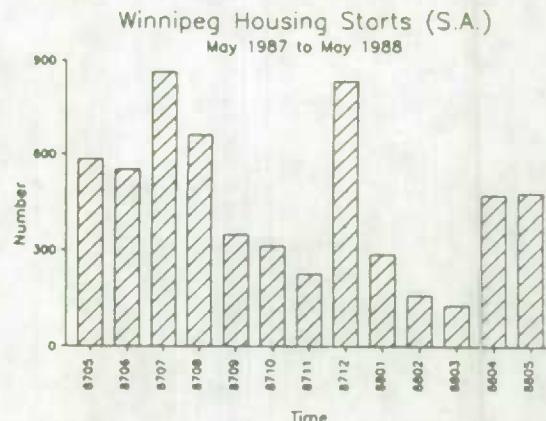
Type of Dwelling	Regina		Saskatoon	
	1987 Jan - May	1988 Jan - May	1987 Jan - May	1988 Jan - May
Single detached	338	251	468	267
Single attached	8	14	40	30
Row	0	4	10	50
Apartments	50	90	88	386
TOTAL	396	359	606	733

MANITOBA:

Housing starts (S.A.) in Winnipeg declined by 18.4% from May 1987 as compared to May 1988. Over the same time frame housing starts (S.A.) in Canada (centre 10,000+) declined by 11.8%.

Over the period May 1987 to May 1988 Winnipeg's housing starts have exhibited a volatile trend, which is not unusual in the housing market.

For the first 5 months of 1988 housing starts in Winnipeg were 44.1% lower than over the first 5 months of 1987. The trend is starting to reverse itself with housing starts beginning to move toward a more normal level. The first three months of 1988 saw a decline in housing starts of 57.6% over the same period in 1987, and a decline of 55.4% over 1986. Housing starts in April and May are 30.8% lower than in 1987, but only 3.5% lower than the same period in 1986.



	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for Previous Period	Percent Change from Last Period	Data for same Per. Last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago
LABOUR FORCE ('000)						
Canada.....	88-Jun	13666.	13514.	1.1	13456.	1.6
Manitoba.....	88-Jun	545.	543.	0.4	538.	1.3
Winnipeg.....	88-Jun	339.	339.	0.0	331.	2.4
Saskatchewan.....	88-Jun	499.	498.	0.2	506.	-1.4
Regina.....	88-Jun	98.	96.	2.1	101.	-3.0
Saskatoon.....	88-Jun	93.	94.	-1.1	95.	-2.1
Alberta.....	88-Jun	1324.	1310.	1.1	1289.	2.7
Edmonton.....	88-Jun	424.	419.	1.2	420.	1.0
Calgary.....	88-Jun	363.	357.	1.7	349.	4.0
EMPLOYED ('000)						
Canada.....	88-Jun	12693.	12479.	1.7	12315.	3.1
Manitoba.....	88-Jun	509.	503.	1.2	501.	1.6
Winnipeg.....	88-Jun	314.	312.	0.6	305.	3.0
Saskatchewan.....	88-Jun	468.	464.	0.9	474.	-1.3
Regina.....	88-Jun	92.	89.	3.4	95.	-3.2
Saskatoon.....	88-Jun	85.	85.	0.0	86.	-1.2
Alberta.....	88-Jun	1229.	1210.	1.6	1170.	5.0
Edmonton.....	88-Jun	393.	386.	1.8	376.	4.5
Calgary.....	88-Jun	334.	330.	1.2	317.	5.4
UNEMPLOYED ('000)						
Canada.....	88-Jun	973.	1035.	-6.0	1142.	-14.8
Manitoba.....	88-Jun	36.	40.	-10.0	37.	-2.7
Winnipeg.....	88-Jun	25.	27.	-7.4	26.	-3.8
Saskatchewan.....	88-Jun	31.	34.	-8.8	32.	-3.1
Regina.....	88-Jun	7.	7.	0.0	6.	16.7
Saskatoon.....	88-Jun	8.	9.	-11.1	9.	-11.1
Alberta.....	88-Jun	95.	100.	-5.0	119.	-20.2
Edmonton.....	88-Jun	31.	34.	-8.8	44.	-29.5
Calgary.....	88-Jun	28.	27.	3.7	32.	-12.5
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)						
Canada.....	88-Jun	7.1	7.7		8.5	
Manitoba.....	88-Jun	6.7	7.4		6.8	
Winnipeg.....	88-Jun	7.5	8.0		7.7	
Saskatchewan.....	88-Jun	6.2	6.9		6.4	
Regina.....	88-Jun	6.7	7.7		5.5	
Saskatoon.....	88-Jun	8.7	9.1		9.6	
Alberta.....	88-Jun	7.2	7.6		9.2	
Edmonton.....	88-Jun	7.3	8.0		10.4	
Calgary.....	88-Jun	7.9	7.5		9.1	
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%) (Seasonally Adjusted)						
Canada.....	88-Jun	7.6	7.8		8.9	
Manitoba.....	88-Jun	7.4	7.8		7.5	
Saskatchewan.....	88-Jun	7.2	6.9		7.3	
Alberta.....	88-Jun	7.5	7.6		9.6	

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for Previous Period	Percent Change from Last Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS						
(All Employees, incl. overtime)						
INDUSTRIAL AGGREGATE (\$)						
Canada.....	88-Apr	461.06	458.74	0.51	437.90	5.29
Manitoba.....	88-Apr	412.44	410.95	0.36	406.28	1.52
Winnipeg.....	88-Apr	400.02	399.93	0.02	402.06	-0.51
Saskatchewan.....	88-Apr	405.74	409.74	-0.98	409.05	-0.81
Regina.....	88-Apr	419.13	426.54	-1.74	421.91	-0.66
Saskatoon.....	88-Apr	394.37	393.04	0.34	405.65	-2.78
Prince Albert.....	88-Apr	392.57	391.77	0.20	412.15	-4.75
Moose Jaw.....	88-Apr	356.74	364.51	-2.13	350.92	1.66
Alberta.....	88-Apr	456.12	461.47	-1.16	444.72	2.56
Edmonton.....	88-Apr	430.04	432.40	-0.55	425.93	0.96
Calgary.....	88-Apr	479.78	490.80	-2.25	468.78	2.35
Medicine Hat.....	88-Apr	353.75	377.06	-6.18	386.45	-8.46
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX						
ALL-ITEMS (1981=100)						
Canada.....	88-Jun	143.6	143.4	0.1	138.2	3.9
Winnipeg.....	88-Jun	141.7	141.4	0.2	137.1	3.4
Regina.....	88-Jun	139.9	139.7	0.1	133.4	4.9
Saskatoon.....	88-Jun	141.7	141.5	0.1	134.2	5.6
Edmonton.....	88-Jun	137.4	137.7	-0.2	134.4	2.2
Calgary.....	88-Jun	136.2	136.2	0.0	133.4	2.1
FOOD						
Canada.....	88-Jun	136.2	135.0	0.9	133.9	1.7
Winnipeg.....	88-Jun	128.9	128.2	0.5	127.2	1.3
Regina.....	88-Jun	126.6	126.1	0.4	125.6	0.8
Saskatoon.....	88-Jun	128.8	127.9	0.7	126.7	1.7
Edmonton.....	88-Jun	137.0	136.4	0.4	134.9	1.6
Calgary.....	88-Jun	134.6	133.2	1.1	133.6	0.7
NEW HOUSING PRICE INDEX						
(1981=100)						
Canada.....	88-May	130.0	128.3	1.3	119.0	9.2
Winnipeg.....	88-May	135.7	136.0	-0.2	133.9	1.3
Regina.....	88-May	119.0	118.8	0.2	116.1	2.5
Saskatoon.....	88-May	111.5	111.5	0.0	109.9	1.5
Edmonton.....	88-May	93.0	92.6	0.4	88.6	5.0
Calgary.....	88-May	101.7	101.4	0.3	93.5	8.8

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago	Total Year to date	%CHG, YTD over same period last yr.
MANUFACTURING SHIPMENTS (\$'000)						
Canada.....	88-Apr	23552865.	22165500.	6.3	93504214.	9.3
Manitoba.....	88-Apr	509994.	482661.	5.7	1939367.	7.1
Saskatchewan.....	88-Apr	260514.	263714.	-1.2	996960.	4.3
Alberta.....	88-Apr	1438089.	1311420.	9.7	5677973.	14.7
RETAIL SALES (\$'000)						
ALL STORES						
Canada.....	88-Apr	13709963.	12867443.	6.5	48981138.	9.9
Manitoba.....	88-Apr	493965.	505445.	-2.3	1769077.	3.4
Winnipeg.....	88-Apr	326510.	332685.	-1.9	1166101.	3.8
Saskatchewan.....	88-Apr	455493.	437753.	4.1	1620845.	4.9
Alberta.....	88-Apr	1297224.	1223325.	6.0	4727500.	8.1
COMBINATION STORES (\$'000)						
(GROCERIES AND MEAT)						
Canada.....	88-Apr	2313206.	2176897.	6.3	8963793.	6.6
Manitoba.....	88-Apr	102580.	99832.	2.8	402504.	2.3
Saskatchewan.....	88-Apr	79378.	76628.	3.6	306674.	2.8
Alberta.....	88-Apr	209020.	189707.	10.2	816185.	10.7
DEPARTMENT STORES (\$'000)						
Canada.....	88-Apr	1003467.	1021737.	-1.8	3379060.	-0.4
Manitoba.....	88-Apr	45584.	50799.	-10.3	149599.	-8.2
Saskatchewan.....	88-Apr	31037.	32361.	-4.1	102812.	-2.0
Alberta.....	88-Apr	109538.	125755.	-12.9	386557.	-10.4
MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS (\$'000)						
Canada.....	88-Apr	3482884.	3254011.	7.0	11536486.	14.9
Manitoba.....	88-Apr	111113.	128275.	-13.4	375394.	2.5
Saskatchewan.....	88-Apr	100422.	98448.	2.0	353636.	4.0
Alberta.....	88-Apr	311257.	299292.	4.0	1128534.	12.8
BUILDING PERMITS (\$'000)						
Manitoba-Total.....	88-Feb	43374.	42645.	1.7	72571.	-19.8
Man Residential Total.....	88-Feb	28839.	25134.	14.7	42165.	-19.6
Man Non-Residential Total.....	88-Feb	14535.	17511.	-17.0	30406.	-20.1
Winnipeg.....	88-Feb	38225.	36615.	4.4	63152.	-21.0
Saskatchewan-Total.....	88-Feb	23090.	57752.	-60.0	61206.	-32.1
Sask Residential Total.....	88-Feb	8270.	19068.	-56.6	16237.	-47.3
Sask Non-Residential Total.....	88-Feb	14820.	38684.	-61.7	44969.	-24.3
Regina.....	88-Feb	6551.	22632.	-71.1	20770.	-25.0
Saskatoon.....	88-Feb	7674.	29045.	-73.6	28766.	-30.2
Alberta-Total.....	88-Feb	464812.	107648.	331.8	555883.	152.7
Alta Residential Total.....	88-Feb	49330.	41653.	18.4	85854.	23.7
Alta Non-Residential Total.....	88-Feb	415482.	65995.	529.6	470029.	212.1
Edmonton.....	88-Feb	28688.	28680.	0.0	66663.	34.3
Calgary.....	88-Feb	55960.	43110.	29.8	84117.	11.5

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago	Total Year to date	%CHG, YTD over same period last yr.
HOUSING STARTS (#)						
Canada (centres 10,000+).....	88-May	21996.	24944.	-11.8	72273.	-12.6
Manitoba (centres 10,000+).....	88-May	497.	644.	-22.8	1571.	-46.3
Winnipeg.....	88-May	476.	583.	-18.4	1517.	-44.1
Saskatchewan (centres 10,000+).....	88-May	410.	289.	41.9	1230.	-19.2
Regina.....	88-May	68.	53.	28.3	359.	-9.3
Saskatoon.....	88-May	297.	139.	113.7	733.	21.0
Alberta (centres 10,000+).....	88-May	675.	964.	-30.0	2884.	9.2
Edmonton.....	88-May	342.	350.	-2.3	1326.	13.4
Calgary.....	88-May	217.	408.	-46.8	1238.	22.1
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION (MWH)						
TOTAL ENERGY GENERATION						
Manitoba.....	88-Apr	1159577.	1880814.	-38.3	6305444.	-22.8
Saskatchewan.....	88-Apr	1017448.	984618.	3.3	4621266.	6.3
Alberta.....	88-Apr	3226382.	2878733.	12.1	13756799.	13.8
TOTAL HYDRO GENERATION						
Manitoba.....	88-Apr	1086465.	1872162.	-42.0	5928678.	-26.6
Saskatchewan.....	88-Apr	212520.	360750.	-41.1	911733.	-37.9
Alberta.....	88-Apr	109269.	120623.	-9.4	424514.	-20.4

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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for Previous Period	Percent Change from Last Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS						
(All Employees, incl. overtime)						
INDUSTRIAL AGGREGATE (\$)						
Northwest Territories.....	88-Apr	615.99	612.02	0.65	616.04	-0.01
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX						
ALL ITEMS (March 1982=100)						
Yellowknife.....	88-Jun	135.1	135.6	-0.4	131.8	2.5
FOOD						
Yellowknife.....	88-Jun	123.4	125.3	-1.5	121.6	1.5

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago	Total Year to date	%CHG. YTD over same period last yr.
RETAIL SALES (\$'000)						
ALL STORES						
Northwest Territories.....	88-Apr	20119.	20042.	0.4	81082.	6.6
FOOD GROUP (\$'000)						
Northwest Territories.....	88-Apr	3768.	4003.	-5.9	14804.	-2.1
AUTOMOBILE DEALERS (\$'000)						
Northwest Territories.....	88-Apr	532.	1757.	-69.7	5327.	-9.5
BUILDING PERMITS (\$'000)						
Northwest Territories-Total....	88-Feb	7.	1333.	-99.5	867.	-39.5
N.W.T. Residential Total....	88-Feb	6.	158.	-96.2	736.	228.6
N.W.T. Non-Residential Total	88-Feb	1.	1175.	-99.9	131.	-89.2
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION (MWH)						
TOTAL ENERGY GENERATION						
Northwest Territories.....	88-Apr	37247.	37455.	-0.6	177626.	2.5
TOTAL HYDRO GENERATION						
Northwest Territories.....	88-Apr	23363.	24488.	-4.6	111441.	3.6

LABOUR MARKET ACTIVITY

THE LABOUR MARKET ACTIVITY Survey collects information on labour market participation, job characteristics and inefficiencies of the market for individuals over a 24 month reference period. This new survey creates a unique data base that enables us to learn more about how individuals react to labour market difficulties.

Highlights of 1986 LABOUR MARKET ACTIVITY Data collected in January and February of 1987 are now available in two publications: CANADA'S MEN: A PROFILE OF THEIR 1986 LABOUR MARKET EXPERIENCE, CANADA'S WOMEN: A PROFILE OF THEIR 1986 LABOUR MARKET EXPERIENCE. The data contained in both these publications will help you understand labour market developments and thus improve or create programs for retraining or upgrading skills.

Both these publications can be ordered through our regional office for \$10.00 per issue.

DEFINITIONS

Labour Force - that portion of the civilian non-institutional population 15 years of age and over who, during the reference week were employed or unemployed

Employed - persons who, during the reference week, did any work at all or had a job but were not at work due to: (1) own illness or disability (2) personal or family responsibilities (3) bad weather (4) labour dispute (5) vacation (6) other reason not specified above (excluding persons on layoff and persons whose job attachment was to a job to start at a definite date in the future)

Unemployed - persons who, during the reference week, were without work and were available for work, had been on layoff, or had a new job to start in four weeks or less from the reference week

Unemployment Rate - represents the number of unemployed persons expressed as a per cent of the labour force

Participation Rate - represents the labour force expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over

Employment/Population Ratio - represents the number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over

SA (Seasonally Adjusted) - A seasonally adjusted series is one from which seasonal movements have been eliminated. Seasonal movements are defined as those which are caused by regular annual events such as climate, crop cycles, holidays and vacation periods. It should be noted that the seasonally-adjusted series contains irregular as well as longer-term cyclical fluctuations.

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