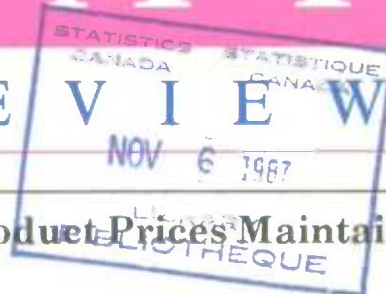


I·N·F·O·M·A·T

A W E E K L Y R E V I E W

Friday, November 6, 1987



OVERVIEW

Industrial Product Prices Maintain Rising Trend

In September, the IPPI rose 0.2%, continuing the trend of moderate advances evident throughout 1987. Petroleum and coal product prices have been the main source of upward pressure for two consecutive months.

Popularity of VCRs and Microwaves Still Growing

Estimates from the latest Household Facilities and Equipment Survey conducted in May 1987 show that microwaves and VCRs were found in almost half of Canadian homes, up from slightly more than one-third in 1986.

Canada Year Book Celebrates 120th Anniversary

The 1988 Canada Year Book is the preferred reference source on every aspect of Canada and Canadians. It presents a diverse and comprehensive range of statistical information, from education and the arts, to manufacturing, international trade and the judicial system.

Raw Material Price Index Declines 0.7%

The September decline in the RMPI was the first monthly decrease recorded since March 1987. This decline was mainly a result of a 2.0% drop in crude oil prices.

Marriage Rate Continues to Decline

In 1986, the marriage rate declined to 6.9 per 1,000 of population, continuing the downturn which began in 1972.

User Summary Tapes of Census Highlights

The leading demographic indicators from the 1986 Census are now available on computer tape, diskette or paper for the provinces and census divisions and subdivisions.

This issue also includes information on the Farm Input Price Index for the third quarter.

Industrial Product Prices Maintain Rising Trend

In September, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1981=100), which measures the price movements of the commodities sold by Canadian industries, rose 0.2%, continuing the rising trend evident throughout 1987. Increasing petroleum and coal product prices were the dominant factor in the overall advance for the second consecutive month. However, prices for lumber and sawmill products, and primary metals were also a source of upward pressure on the index.

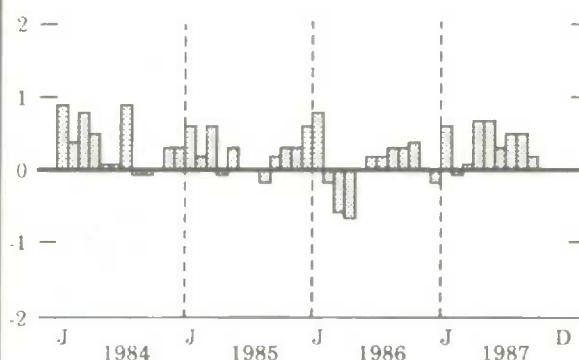
Preliminary estimates indicate that prices for petroleum and coal products rose 1.6% in September, continuing the upward movement evident in this component since the start of the year. In 1986, tumbling crude oil prices resulted in 11 monthly decreases in petroleum and coal product prices.

Prices for lumber and sawmill products advanced (0.6%) for the fourth month in a row, pushed up by softwood lumber prices on the export market. Despite decreases for many types of softwood lumber, the component rose 1.2% over August, buoyed up by strong

(continued on page 2)

Industrial Product Price Index

(% change, previous month)



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... Industrial Product Prices Maintain Rising Trend

prices for hemlock. Important increases in hemlock prices have been registered since January. These increases coincided with significant exports to Japan, where the residential construction industry was strong in the first two quarters of 1987.

Primary metal prices have advanced for seven months in a row on the strength of rising aluminum and copper prices. Internationally, prices for both of these commodities have benefited from low inventories and high demand throughout 1987. In conjunction with rising aluminum and copper prices, ferrous and non-ferrous scrap prices have also increased sharply since the start of the year. Precious metal prices, which were strong from February to May, have fluctuated in recent months and have shown no clear trend.

Industrial Product Price Index

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
	% change, previous month				
Total	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.2
Petroleum and coal products	-0.8	0.9	1.1	1.8	1.6
Total excluding petroleum and coal products	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.1

The effect of increases in these three commodity groups on the total IPPI was partially offset by a decline of 0.5% in prices for motor vehicles and other transportation equipment. A 1.2% appreciation in the Canadian dollar, relative to the American dollar, was largely responsible for this decrease.

For further information, contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9607 or order Industry Price Indexes (catalogue number 62-011).

Popularity of VCRs and Microwaves Still Growing

Estimates from the latest Household Facilities and Equipment Survey conducted in May 1987 show that microwaves and VCRs were found in almost half of Canadian households. Popularity of these two items was highest in the Prairie provinces.

Other highlights from the report include:

- The popularity of VCRs continued to increase in 1987; 45% of households had them, compared to 35% in 1986. As recently as 1983, only 6.4% of households had this item.
- Microwave ovens were in 43.2% of Canadian households, up from 33.6% in 1986. Five years ago, only 10% had this item. Microwaves were most common in the Prairies. Saskatchewan had the highest proportion of households with microwaves (57.4%), but in each of the other two Prairie provinces the proportion was over 50%.

- The percentage of households with at least one telephone has changed very little in the past decade. However, during this period two-telephone homes have risen to 35% from 25.3%, while those homes with three or more have increased to 21.9% from 4.7%.
- While the proportion of owner-occupied dwellings (62.3%) is unchanged from 1986, ownership rates have declined gradually during the past decade. Ten years ago, 64.3% of dwellings were owner occupied.
- The proportion of owner-occupied dwellings which were mortgage-free was 50%, unchanged from 1986 but up from 45.1% in 1982.
- After years of substantial shifts from oil to both gas and electricity, electricity was the only heating fuel to show increased usage in 1987. Although piped gas remains the most preferred heating fuel, its usage has remained unchanged for the past two years.

For further information, contact Household Surveys Division at (613) 951-9778 or order Household Facilities and Equipment (catalogue number 64-202).

... Raw Material Price Index Declines 0.7%

The mineral fuels component declined for the first time in six months. It was down 1.7% in September as crude oil prices fell by an estimated 2.0%.

The animal and animal products component was down 0.6% from August, primarily due to a drop of 5.5% in hog prices. Hog prices have been strong for the past year. The decline in the current month may be the beginning of the traditional autumn downturn in prices which is associated with the period of peak deliveries to packing plants.

The non-ferrous metals component rose 1.6% in September, its seventh consecutive monthly advance. Since March 1987, the continuing recovery in base metal prices has produced increases ranging from 1.3% to 9.0% a month in the non-ferrous metals component.

Raw Material Price Index

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
	% change, previous month				
Total	3.2	1.6	1.0	1.7	-0.7
Mineral fuels	2.3	2.6	3.0	2.7	-1.7
Total, excluding mineral fuels	4.0	0.9	-0.5	0.8	0.0

For further information, contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9606 or order Industry Price Indexes (catalogue number 62-011).

Marriage Rate Continues to Decline

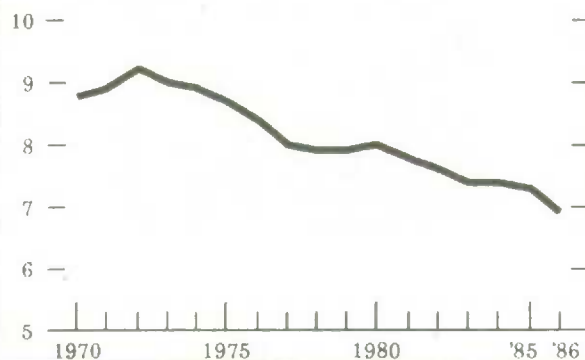
Since the peaks reached in 1972, there has been a downturn in both the number of legal marriages and the rate of marriage per 1,000 population. This trend continued in 1986 as the number of marriages fell by 4.7% and the marriage rate declined to 6.9 per 1,000 population.

The extent of the decrease has varied considerably at the provincial level. Between 1972 and 1986, the largest percentage decrease in marriage rates occurred in Quebec (42.7%), followed by Newfoundland at 37.5% and New Brunswick at 30%. The lowest percentage decreases were in Ontario, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia.

In 1986, the provinces with the highest marriage rates per 1,000 population were Alberta (8.0), Ontario and Prince Edward Island. The lowest marriage rates were observed in Quebec (5.1), Newfoundland, and Saskatchewan. During 1985-86, the marriage rate increased in Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and decreased in the remaining provinces.

Marriage Rate

(per 1,000 population)



The Family History Survey and the Census indicate that the number of consensual or common-law unions has been rising while the rate of legal marriage has slowed.

For further information, contact Health Division at (613) 951-1746.

Farm Input Price Index

In the third quarter of 1987, the Farm Input Price Index (1981=100) stood at a preliminary level of 111.1, up 0.9% from the previous quarter and an increase of 1.6% from a year earlier. Six of the major component indexes rose in the latest quarter, while one declined.

- The animal production index, up 1.2%, had the most significant impact on the quarterly increase in the Farm Input Price Index. The rise was mainly a reflection of higher prices for feeder calves in Western Canada, up 3.8%, and prepared feed, up 4.9% at the

national level. Decreases in Western piglet prices (-24.0%) and feed green prices (-4.9% nationally) partially offset these increases.

- The machinery and motor vehicle index, up 1.0%, also had a large impact on the quarterly advance. Prices rose 3.2% for petroleum products and 2.3% for non-powered machinery.
- Crop production, down 0.1%, was the only major group index which recorded a decline in the quarter. Lower prices for fertilizer (-0.7%) and pesticides (-0.2%) were only partially offset by higher prices for twine (6.8%).

For further information, contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9607 or order Farm Input Price Indexes (catalogue number 62-004).

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA

User Summary Tapes of Census Highlights

At Statistics Canada, we know that your information needs are often urgent. You need to make decisions quickly, using the best information available.

To help fulfill this need, we have summarized the leading demographic indicators from the 1986 Census. User Summary Tabulations of the most commonly requested Census data are once again available on computer tape, diskette or paper.

Because these products have a standard format, they can be offered for the lowest price of all machine-readable data from the 1986 Census. Prices for tape output range from \$300 for the Yukon to \$900 for Canada-wide data. Cost estimates for selected subprovincial data or output to diskette or paper will be provided upon demand.

The following tables, at the census subdivision level with totals for census divisions and provinces are now available. Each table presents information on two or three census variables.

Demography

- Population by five-year age groups and sex.
- Population by marital status, age groups and sex.

Mother Tongue

- Population by mother tongue and sex.

Dwellings

- Occupied private dwellings by tenure, structural type and age of household maintainer.
- Occupied private dwellings by structural type and number of persons per dwelling.

Households

- Private households by tenure and type of household.
- Private households by number of persons per household and type of household.

Families

- Census families in private households by number of persons in census families and family structure.
- Census families in private households by family structure and number of children at home.
- Census families in private households by family structure and age groups of children at home.
- Population in census families by census family status and age groups and sex.

For further information please contact your local Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre or the Electronic Data Dissemination Division (613-951-8200), Ottawa.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 5

AGRICULTURE

The Dairy Review, August 1987. Catalogue number 23-001 (Canada: \$10/\$100; Other Countries: \$11/\$110).

CANADA

Canada Year Book, 1988. Catalogue number 11-402E (Canada: \$49.95 + 4.05 shipping and handling; Other Countries: \$49.95 + \$20.05 shipping and handling).

CANSIM

Canadian Statistical Review, October 1987. Catalogue number 11-003E (Canada: \$20/\$200; Other Countries: \$21.50/\$215).

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM

Culture Statistics - Heritage Institutions, Preliminary Statistics, 1984-85. Catalogue number 87-207 (Canada: \$24; Other Countries: \$25).

INDUSTRY

Cement, August 1987. Catalogue number 44-001 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Coal and Coke Statistics, July 1987. Catalogue number 45-002 (Canada: \$8/\$80; Other Countries: \$9/\$90).

Construction Type Plywood, August 1987. Catalogue number 35-001 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other countries: \$5/\$50).

New Motor Vehicle Sales, June 1987. Catalogue number 63-007 (Canada: \$8/\$80; Other Countries: \$9/\$90).

Primary Iron and Steel, August 1987. Catalogue number 41-001 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder, September 1987. Catalogue number 32-024 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: (\$5/\$50).

Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, July 1987. Catalogue number 35-003 (Canada: \$6/\$60; Other Countries: \$7/\$70).

Quarterly Report on Energy Supply-demand in Canada, First Quarter 1987. Catalogue number 57-003 (Canada: \$25/\$100; Other Countries: \$26.50/\$106).

Retail Trade, July 1987. Catalogue number 63-005 (Canada: \$14/\$140; Other Countries: \$15/\$150).

Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, October 1987. Catalogue number 32-012 (Canada: \$10/\$100; Other Countries: \$11/\$110).

The Sugar Situation, September 1987. Catalogue number 32-013 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Wholesale Trade, August 1987. Catalogue number 63-008 (Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60).

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Exports by Commodity, August 1987. Catalogue number 65-004 (Canada: \$50/\$500; Other Countries: \$60/\$600).

HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

Household Facilities and Equipment, May 1987. Catalogue number 64-202 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21).

PRICES

Consumer Prices and Price Indexes, April-June 1987. Catalogue number 62-010 (Canada: \$15/\$60; Other Countries: \$16.50/\$66).

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Federal Government Employment, January-March 1987. Catalogue number 72-004 (Canada: \$20/\$80; Other Countries: \$21/\$84).

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK

Construction Statistics Service Bulletin, Vol. 10, No. 7, **Activity of Single-family Housing Builders in Metropolitan Areas**, 1986. Catalogue number 64-003 (Canada: \$5/\$30; Other Countries: \$6/\$36).

TRANSPORT

Railway Carloadings, August 1987. Catalogue number 52-001 (Canada: \$7.50/\$75; Other Countries: \$8.50/\$85).

Regional Reference Centres

Statistics Canada's regional reference centres provide a full range of the bureau's products and services. Each reference centre is equipped with a library and a sales counter where users can consult or purchase our publications, microcomputer diskettes, microfiche, maps and more.

Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from Statistics Canada's computerized data retrieval systems CANSIM and Telichart. A telephone inquiry service is also available with toll free numbers for regional clients outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services – from seminars to consultations – are offered. Call or write your regional reference centre for information.

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LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Aug.	439.13	442.17	2.7
Labour Income (\$ million)	July	24,714	24,911	6.3
Persons with Jobs (million)	Sept.	12.03	11.98	3.3
Unemployed (million)	Sept.	1.1	1.2	-7.5
INVENTORIES				
Department Store (\$ million)	Aug.	4,445	4,292	5.2
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Aug.	33,770	33,495	1.3
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Aug.	20,790	20,568	7.6
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Aug.	24,389	24,426	0.9
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Sept.	139.3	139.3	4.5
New House Price Index (1981=100)	Aug.	120.8	120.1	15.0
Raw Materials Price Index (1981=100)	Sept.*	105.9	106.7	13.6
Excl. minerals fuels	Sept.*	111.3	111.4	5.5
Industrial Product Price Index (1981=100)	Sept.*	124.0	123.8	3.9
CONSTRUCTION				
			Year-to-date	
Building Permits (\$ million)	July	2,398	17,985	32.3
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	Aug.	21,052	148,952	37.8
ENERGY				
Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Aug.*	4,646	38,194	3.1
Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)	Aug.*	37,031	298,492	7.3
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	July	7,936	62,661	3.0
FOREIGN TRADE				
Exports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Aug.	9,114	80,587	2.5
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Aug.	8,425	74,636	1.1
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	992	7,383	1.2
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Aug.	20,826	169,658	2.4
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	1,931	16,307	8.7
Refined Petroleum Products (thousand cubic metres)	Aug.	6,824	50,743	3.3
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	12,837	97,672	9.0

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.
 * new this week.

I.N.F.O.M.A.T

A Weekly Review

Published by the Communications Division
 (Director: Tim Davis), Statistics Canada.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613) 951-1103
 Editor: Linda McCormick (613) 951-1088

R.H. Coats Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

Catalogue: 11-002E. Price: Canada, \$2/\$100; other countries, \$3/\$150. To subscribe: send money order or cheque payable to the Receiver General for Canada/Publication Sales, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6 or telephone Publication Sales at (613) 951-7276.

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