

I·N·F·O·M·A·T

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

Friday, November 20, 1987

OVERVIEW

■ Manufacturing Shipments Maintain Rising Trend

The value of shipments and the level of new orders in Canadian manufacturing industries posted new highs in September. Both indicators of the industry's well-being rose significantly above the previous month.

■ Job Search Methods Studied

An article in the October issue of *The Labour Force* examines the job search methods used from 1977 to 1986 by unemployed persons who were actively seeking work.

■ Corporate Profits Register Slower Growth in 1985

Following notable increases in 1983 and 1984, pre-tax profits of Canadian corporations registered growth of only 2% in 1985.

■ Farm Cash Receipts Edge Up

Higher livestock receipts and direct program payments offset a decline in crop receipts, producing a 2% increase in total farm cash receipts for the first nine months of 1987.

■ Retail Trade Still Rising

In September, retail sales advanced 0.6%, continuing the trend of generally rising sales evident throughout 1987.



Manufacturing Shipments Maintain Rising Trend

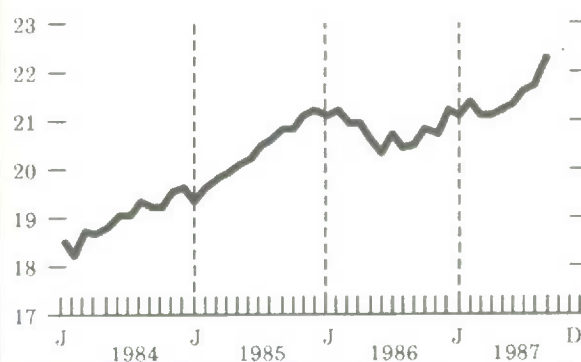
The value of shipments and the level of new orders in Canadian manufacturing industries posted new highs in September as both indicators of the industry's well-being rose significantly over the previous month. Shipments increased for the sixth consecutive month, while new orders rose for the fifth time in six months. The high level of shipments produced a decline in the ratio of inventory owned to shipments, even though inventories climbed past the \$34 billion mark for the first time since February 1986.

Preliminary estimates indicate that the seasonally adjusted value of shipments increased 2.6% in September, to a level of \$22.3 billion. This increase was the largest single monthly advance in the past three years and marked a continuation of the rising trend recorded since last April. Most of the increase originated in the transportation equipment industries which jumped 14.2%, the wood industries and the paper and allied industries.

(continued on page 2)

Manufacturers' Shipments

(billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted)



... Manufacturing Shipments Maintain Rising Trend

Following a pattern similar to shipments, new orders rose significantly (3.6%) in September. Except for a decline in August, new orders have increased since April, reaching a record level of \$22.5 billion.

Manufacturers' inventories increased 0.4%, to \$34 billion in September. This was the fifth increase in six months, and contrasts with the gently declining trend experienced during 1986 and the first quarter of 1987.

The ratio of inventory owned to shipments declined from 1.56, where it had hovered since the start of the year, to 1.53 in September. In 1986, this ratio averaged 1.61.

The backlog of unfilled orders advanced 0.9%, to stand at \$24.7 billion. This increase extends the upward trend experienced since April 1987 and pushed the level

Manufacturing Activity

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
	% change, previous month				
Shipments	0.3	0.5	1.3	0.7	2.6
New orders	0.6	0.7	1.1	-0.3	3.6
Unfilled orders	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.0	0.9
Inventory to shipments ratio	1.59	1.58	1.56	1.56	1.53

of unfilled orders past the previous peak recorded in April 1986.

For further information, contact Industry Division at (613) 951-9497 or order Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries (catalogue number 31-001).

Job Search Methods Studied

Most people look for a job at least once in their lifetime and some look many times. Ways of finding work range from checking newspaper ads to contacting employment agencies. The Labour Force Survey is a rich source of information on the methods used by workers to find jobs. An article in the October issue of *The Labour Force* examines the job search methods used by unemployed persons who were actively seeking work from 1977 to 1986.

Highlights from this study include:

- Contacting employers directly, the most commonly reported job search method, declines in use with increasing age and increasing duration of unemployment. Men generally use this method more often than women.
- The use of public employment agencies as a job search activity decreased dramatically during the period of the study. In 1977, 60% of unemployed job seekers reported using a public employment agency, but by 1986 the figure was 40%.
- Looking at job ads has become more popular. Women used this search method more often than men, and for both sexes utilization generally rose with increased length of unemployment.

- Less than 5% of unemployed job seekers reported using a private employment agency and this figure decreased slightly from 1977 to 1986. Generally, women were more likely than men to use a private employment agency.
- Checking with a union has been almost exclusively a male activity. This job search method has a strong occupational association; for example, unions play an important role in the hiring of construction workers.
- Checking with friends and relatives as a job search activity increased slightly over the ten-year period. Generally, it was used more often by men than women.
- For most methods, utilization rates were higher for unemployed job seekers with high levels of education; the two exceptions were the use of public employment agencies and checking with unions.
- Over the past decade, unemployed persons accounted for between 62% and 72% of all job seekers. Of the remainder, the largest proportion were employed and facing impending job loss or searching for a better or more suitable job.

For further information, contact Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division at (613) 951-4626 or order the October 1987 issue of The Labour Force (catalogue number 71-001).

Corporation Profits Register Slower Growth in 1985

Pre-tax profits of Canadian corporations grew by 2% in 1985 and totalled \$62 billion. This small rate of growth followed notable increases of 40% in 1984 and 27% in 1983. Total revenues also grew at a slower rate than in 1984. They were up 6% to \$928 billion.

In 1985, the overall rise in profits was the result of a 16% increase in the financial industries. Investment companies, with an increase of \$1 billion and real estate operators and developers (with a combined gain of \$934 million) accounted for 80% of this growth. Altogether, financial corporations' revenues registered an increase of \$6 billion, up 6% from 1985. Investment companies accounted for \$2.1 billion of the total advance and real estate operators and developers for \$1.9 billion.

Profits of the non-financial industries declined by 2%. Mining and manufacturing accounted for most of the weakness in profits, after accounting for most of the strength in 1984. Manufacturing profits dropped 4%, while pre-tax profits in the mining industry were down 2% from a year earlier. Revenues in the manufacturing industries registered slower growth in 1985 (6%), after a 17% advance in 1984. However, manufacturers continued to add to their assets and were the major contributors to the increase in assets of non-financial industries, recording a \$21 billion gain in 1985.

For further information, contact Industrial Organization and Finance Division at (613) 951-2649 or order Corporation Financial Statistics (catalogue number 61-207).

Farm Cash Receipts Edge Up

For the first nine months of 1987, farm cash receipts were \$15.2 billion, up 2% from the same period of 1986. Farm cash receipts measure the gross returns to farmers, in current dollars, from the sale of all agricultural products except those associated with direct sales between farms in the same province.

At \$5.9 billion, crop receipts were down 11% from the level recorded in the first nine months of 1986. This decrease reflects large declines in Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) payments, cereal and oilseed receipts and crop insurance payments. CWB payments for wheat, oats and barley totalled \$51.3 million compared to the previous year's level of \$415.8 million. The decrease in cereal and oilseed receipts was largely the result of price declines averaging 22%.

Livestock and animal product receipts increased 5%, to \$7.8 billion, as higher receipts were registered for all major livestock and animal product categories. Cattle prices have been high throughout 1987, on average 11% above the levels registered in 1986. Hog receipts were up on the strength of higher prices and marketings, while higher marketings of poultry offset a slight drop in prices.

Other cash receipts, which include forest and maple products as well as some direct program payments, were up 87%, to \$1.4 billion. Payments made to producers under the Special Canadian Grains Program, totalling \$962 million, were responsible for this increase.

For further information, contact Agriculture Division at (613) 951-8706 or order Farm Cash Receipts (catalogue number 21-001).

Retail Trade Still Rising

- Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, preliminary estimates indicate that retail sales totalled \$13.0 billion in September, up 0.6% from the previous month.
- This advance was in line with the generally rising sales observed during the year. From January to September, retail sales have grown an average of 1.0% a month.
- In September, the largest increases based on the dollar value of sales were reported by drugstores, combination stores and service stations.

Retail Trade

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
	% change, previous month				
Grocery & meat stores	1.4	1.9	-2.8	2.6	0.8
Department stores	-2.6	2.8	-2.3	1.9	-2.3
Motor vehicle dealers	-2.8	6.1	-2.7	3.1	-0.9
All stores	-0.2	2.5	-0.7	1.5	0.6
All stores excl. motor	0.5	1.6	-0.1	1.0	0.9

(continued on page 4)

... Retail Trade Still Rising

- Partly offsetting these increases were declines in two of the largest trade groups, department stores and motor vehicle dealers, and in family clothing stores.
- Excluding new and used motor vehicle dealers, retail sales rose 0.9% in September, following an increase of 1.0% in August.
- Actual sales for the first nine months of the year totalled \$110.3 billion, an increase of 9.0% over the corresponding period of 1986.

For further information contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3549 or order Retail Trade (catalogue number 63-005).

Retail Trade

(billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted)



NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA

The Nation – Families: Part 1

The second in a series of 19 publications illustrating the scope and depth of information collected from the 1986 Census of Population, this report focuses on census families in private households. It presents data on the growth (from 1971 to 1986) in the number and size of families and on demographic characteristics (for 1981 and 1986) of lone-parent families, married couples and common-law couples. The publication includes information on persons living in private households by family status: husbands and wives, lone parents, children and non-family persons.

Three other publications in this series also provide data collected from all households. These publications include information on age, sex and marital status (93-101, now available); mother tongue (93-102) and household and dwelling characteristics (93-104). The remainder of the publications in this series will contain data collected from a 20% sample of households (data such as income, occupation, schooling, etc.) and will be available in 1988 and the first quarter of 1989.

For a copy of *The Nation: Population and Dwelling Characteristics – Families: Part 1* (93-106, \$28), or for more information on 1986 Census products, please contact your nearest Regional Reference Centre.

Métis and Non-status Indian Data Catalogue

Designed as a time-saving method of storing relevant information, the Métis and Non-Status Indian Data Catalogue is a computerized data reference catalogue which holds a collection of over 500 records on floppy diskettes. The package comes with its own user's guide and can be purchased in its entirety for \$50.

Records contain descriptions of tables and charts examining demographic and socio-economic statistics on topical areas such as employment, education and income. The catalogue program allows users to carry out fast literature searches that are relevant to their data needs and runs on Dbase III or Dbase III Plus software for IBM compatible micro-computers.

Customized searches are also possible from the file for a pre-determined price based on the size of the search.

Contact Alain Crégheur (613-951-2571) or Pierrette Fuoco (613-951-2543) for more information, or your nearest Regional Reference Centre for purchasing procedures.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM NOVEMBER 13 - 19

CENSUS

The Nation - Population and Dwelling Characteristics, Families: Part 1, 1986 Census. Catalogue number 93-106 (Canada: \$28; Other Countries: \$29.50).

Population and Dwelling Counts - Provinces and Territories, Ontario, 1986 Census. Catalogue number 92-114 (Canada: \$46; Other Countries: \$56).

Population and Dwelling Counts - Provinces and Territories, Manitoba, 1986 Census. Catalogue number 92-115 (Canada: \$25; Other Countries: \$26).

Profiles - Census Divisions and Subdivisions - New Brunswick: Part 1, 1986 Census. Catalogue number 94-107 (Canada: \$35; Other Countries: \$36.50).

Profiles - Census Divisions and Subdivisions - Quebec: Part 1, 1986 Census. Catalogue number 94-109 (Canada: \$110; Other Countries: \$126).

Profiles - Census Divisions and Subdivisions - Ontario: Part 1, 1986 Census. Catalogue number 94-111 (Canada: \$73; Other Countries: \$86).

Profiles - Census Divisions and Subdivisions: Manitoba: Part 1, 1986 Census. Catalogue number 94-113 (Canada: \$35; Other Countries: \$36.50).

Profiles - Census Divisions and Subdivisions - Saskatchewan: Part 1, 1986 Census. Catalogue number 94-115 (Canada: \$68; Other Countries: \$81).

Profiles - Census Divisions and Subdivisions - Alberta: Part 1, 1986 Census. Catalogue number 94-117 (Canada: \$42; Other Countries: \$52).

Profiles - Census Divisions and Subdivisions - British Columbia: Part 1, 1986 Census. Catalogue number 94-119 (Canada: \$51; Other Countries: \$61).

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM

International Travel - Advance Information, September 1987. Catalogue number 66-001P (Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60).

GEOGRAPHY

Geographic Reference - Enumeration Area Reference Lists, Census Divisions and Subdivisions, Quebec, 1986 Census. Catalogue number 99-118 (Canada: \$25; Other Countries: \$26).

Geographic Reference - Enumeration Area Reference Lists, Census Divisions and Subdivisions, Western Provinces and the Territories, 1986 Census. Catalogue number 99-120 (Canada: \$27; Other Countries: \$28.50).

Geographic Reference - Enumeration Area Reference Lists, Provincial Census Tracts, Atlantic Provinces, 1986 Census. Catalogue number 99-122 (Canada: \$23; Other Countries: \$24).

INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE

Financial Institutions - Financial Statistics, Second Quarter 1987. Catalogue number 61-006 (Canada: \$40/\$160; Other Countries: \$41.50/\$166).

Industrial Corporations - Financial Statistics, Second Quarter 1987. Catalogue number 61-003 (Canada: \$50/\$200; Other Countries: \$60/\$240).

INDUSTRY

Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables, August 1987. Catalogue number 32-011 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, September 1987. Catalogue number 43-005 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Fruit and Vegetable Preservation, Vol. 16, No. 1, Pack of Processed Asparagus, 1986 and 1987. Catalogue number 32-023 (Canada: \$6/\$100; Other Countries: \$7/\$110).

General Review of the Mineral Industries, 1985. Catalogue Number 26-201 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21).

Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, July 1987. Catalogue number 31-001 (Canada: \$15/\$150; Other Countries: \$16/\$160).

Merchandising Inventories, June 1987. Catalogue number 63-014 (Canada: \$12/\$120; Other Countries: \$13/\$130).

Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, October 1987. Catalogue number 32-001 (Canada: \$2/\$20; Other Countries: \$3/\$30).

Oils and Fats, September 1987. Catalogue number 32-006 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Production, Sales and Stocks of Major Appliances, September 1987. Catalogue number 43-010 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Production of Selected Biscuits, Quarter Ended September 1987. Catalogue number 32-026 (Canada: \$5/\$20; Other Countries: \$6/\$24).

Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, August 1987. Catalogue number 35-002 (Canada: \$8/\$80; Other Countries: \$9/\$90).

Quarries and Sand Pits, 1985. Catalogue Number 26-225 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21).

Shipments of Solid Fuel-burning Heating Products, Quarter Ended September 1987. Catalogue number 25-002 (Canada: \$3/\$12; Other Countries: \$4/\$16).

Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances, September 1987. Catalogue number 43-003 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

LABOUR

The Labour Force, October 1987. Catalogue number 71-001 (Canada: \$20/\$200; Other Countries: \$21.50/\$215).

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK

Housing Starts and Completions, July 1987. Catalogue number 64-002 (Canada: \$15/\$150; Other Countries: \$16/\$160).

TRANSPORT

Air Carrier Operations in Canada, July-September 1986. Catalogue number 51-002 (Canada: \$20/\$80; Other Countries: \$21/\$84).

Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin, vol. 19, No. 11. Catalogue number 51-004 (Canada: \$8.50/\$85; Other Countries: \$9.50/\$95).

Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics, August 1987. Catalogue number 53-003 (Canada: \$6.50/\$65; Other Countries: \$7.50/\$75).



1010718252

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Aug.	439.13	442.17	2.7
Labour Income (\$ million)	Aug.	24,425	24,718	6.7
Persons with Jobs (million)	Oct.	12.16	12.03	3.8
Unemployed (million)	Oct.	1.0	1.0	10.4
INVENTORIES				
Department Store (\$ million)	Aug.	4,445	4,292	5.2
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Sept.*	33,887	33,804	1.9
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Sept.*	23,329	21,090	9.6
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Sept.*	23,212	20,871	8.5
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Sept.	139.3	139.3	4.5
New House Price Index (1981=100)	Sept.	122.0	120.8	13.8
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)	Sept.	10,534	91,084	2.0
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Sept.	9,083	83,799	1.3
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	992	7,383	1.2
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Sept.*	23,212	192,915	3.1
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Sept.	1,787	18,122	8.4
Refined Petroleum Products (thousand cubic metres)	Aug.	6,824	50,743	3.3
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Sept.*	11,540	12,778	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 1-800-267-6677.

Published under the authority of the Minister of Supply and Services Canada. Statistics Canada should be credited when reproducing or quoting any part of this document.