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OVERVIEW

■ Economic Output Still Rising

In October, real GDP rose 0.5%, its ninth consecutive advance. Exceptional activity on stock exchanges was a major contributor to the output growth in the service-producing industries during the month. The goods-producing industries edged up 0.2%.

■ Report Focuses on Health and Social Support

A new report presents initial findings and analyses based on the General Social Survey of 1985 and includes comparisons with results of the 1978-79 Canada Health Survey.

■ Raw Material Prices Dip Slightly

In November, the raw materials price index decreased for the third consecutive month. The slight decline in the current month followed drops of 0.8% and 0.9% in the two preceding months.

■ Industrial Product Prices Continue to Rise

The industrial product price index increased 0.4% in November, continuing the rising trend evident since January 1987.

■ Property and Casualty Insurers Report Underwriting Loss

Despite a higher underwriting loss in the third quarter, property and casualty insurers reported a significant increase in their after-tax income for the first nine months of the year.

■ Growth in Industrial Employment Moderates

The year-over-year change in industrial employment was 2.6% in October. Year-to-year increases have moderated in recent months as employment growth in the service-producing industries has slowed.

■ This issue also includes information on the **Market Research Handbook** and **Canadian Social Trends**.

Economic Output Still Rising

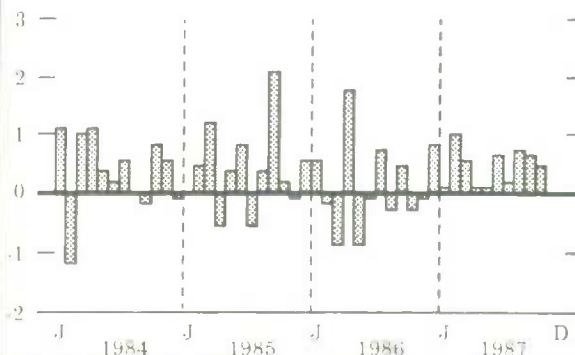
Gross Domestic Product at factor cost (in 1981 prices) increased 0.5% in October following gains of 0.8% in August and 0.7% in September. The advance in October was the ninth consecutive monthly increase, and pushed output 5.1% above its level of January 1987. Output in the services-producing industries grew 0.8%, while the 0.2% increase in the goods-producing sector was the smallest advance in six months, excluding a slight drop in production in July.

The growth in the service-producing industries was the largest monthly advance since last April. Seventy percent of this increase resulted from the exceptional increase in the volume of activity on stock exchanges during the month. Brokerages and exchanges earned more commissions as the volume of activity rose dramatically. (In November and early December, activity on stock exchanges returned to lower levels.) Following a substantial decrease in September, real estate activity picked up in October as the resale housing market improved. Retail trade registered a strong advance (1.0%) compared to September (0.5%) as motor vehicle dealers, department and clothing stores reported higher sales volumes.

(continued on page 2)

Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost

(% change, previous month)



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... Economic Output

The relatively slow growth in the goods-producing industries was mainly a result of activity levels in manufacturing and construction, the largest industry groups in this sector. Manufacturing output was virtually unchanged from September, following two strong monthly advances. A decrease in output from the construction industry of 0.5% was the fourth consecutive decline. Increases in output were reported by mining, logging and forestry, and agriculture industries. Increased production of crude petroleum, natural gas and gold mines accounted for almost all of the growth in mining.

Real Gross Domestic Product

	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
	% change, previous month				
Real Gross Domestic Product	0.7	0.2	0.8	0.7	0.5
Goods-producing	1.3	-0.2	1.2	0.7	0.2
Service-producing	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.8

For further information, contact Industry Measures and Analysis Division at (613) 951-3673 or order Gross Domestic Product by Industry (catalogue number 15-001).

Report Focuses on Health and Social Support

More than half of the adult Canadian population either smokes regularly or are exposed to second-hand smoke in their own homes. Data from the first cycle of the General Social Survey (GSS) show that while only 3 Canadians in 10 smoke daily, an additional 2 in 10, or over three million persons, are non-smoking adults who live with someone who smokes.

This finding is but one of the highlights presented in the first major report of the GSS. The report presents initial analyses and findings based on this survey and includes comparisons with findings from the 1978-79 Canada Health Survey.

Other health related findings from this survey include:

- Over 80% of Canadians rate their health as good or excellent. An even higher proportion express satisfaction with their health.
- Sixty-three percent of the adult Canadian population can be classified as current drinkers. While this figure is approximately the same as the 65% reported in the 1978-79 Canada Health Survey, those who do drink are now consuming less alcohol per week.

- Nearly 40% of the Canadian population 20 years of age and older can be classified as having excessive weight. This compares with over 50% found in the 1978-79 Canada Health Survey.
- Canadians who are obese, underweight, or who smoke are more likely to report a range of health problems than are non-smokers who are within recommended weight limits.

Findings related to seniors show that:

- Most people 55 years of age and older living outside institutions feel they are able to carry out routine daily activities such as light housework, grocery shopping and meal preparation without assistance. However, three in 10 say that they require help or are unable to do yard work, while one in five report having trouble with, or being unable to do heavy housework.
- Seniors who have many social activities report being happier and healthier than those with few activities, even when compared to those of similar health status.

For further information, contact Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division or order Health and Social Support, 1985 (Catalogue number 11-612E).

Raw Material Prices Dip Slightly

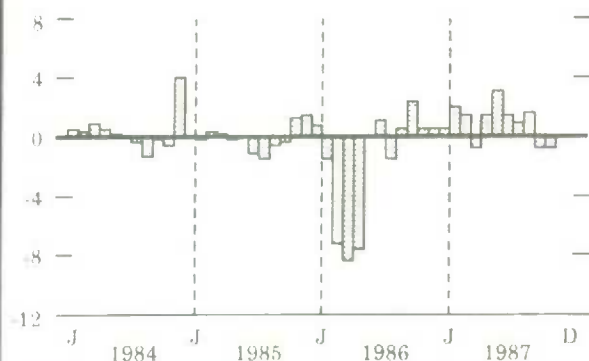
In November, the raw materials price index (1981=100), which measures price changes in the materials purchased by Canadian industry, decreased for the third consecutive month. The slight decline of 0.1% in the current month followed drops of 0.8% and 0.9% in September and October. Decreases in the two preceding months were mainly due to downturns in the animal and animal products component and in prices for mineral fuels. The animal and animal products component continued to decline in November, while the mineral fuels component was unchanged from October.

Raw Materials Price Index

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
	% change, previous month				
Total	1.0	1.2	-0.9	-0.8	-0.1
Animal products	-1.5	0.7	-0.6	-2.0	-3.3
Non-ferrous metals	1.6	2.6	1.4	2.4	6.6
Mineral fuels	3.0	1.8	-2.5	-2.3	0.0
Total, excluding mineral fuels	-0.5	0.8	0.2	0.4	-0.2

Raw Materials Price Index

(% change, previous month)



The animal and animal products component was down for the third consecutive month. Dropping 3.3% from the previous month, this component was influenced by declining prices for hogs, poultry, cattle and calves.

The vegetable products component was also down (1.2%) as potato prices plunged 46.2% below their October level.

The non-ferrous metals component rose 6.6% in November, its ninth 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.

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

Industrial Product Prices Continue to Rise

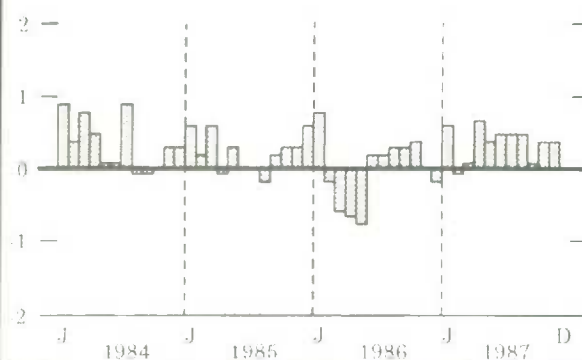
In November, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1981=100), which measures the price movements of the commodities sold by Canadian industries, rose 0.4%, continuing the rising trend evident throughout 1987.

Primary metal prices have advanced for nine months on the strength of rising aluminum and copper prices. Internationally, prices for both of these commodities have benefitted from low inventories and high demand throughout 1987. Rising nickel prices also contributed to the advance in this component in November.

Preliminary estimates indicate that prices for petroleum and coal products dropped 0.6% in November. This was the second consecutive decrease and reverses the upward movement evident in this component since the start of the year. It was mainly the result of decreasing prices for fuel oil.

Industrial Product Price Index

(% change, previous month)



(continued on page 4)

... Industrial Product Prices

Prices for lumber and sawmill products decreased (-0.4%) for the second consecutive month, following six months of rising or stable prices. Prices for softwood lumber rose 0.4%, but prices for softwood veneer and plywood dropped 6.9%.

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

Industrial Product Price Index

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
	% change, previous month				
Total	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.4
Primary metal products	1.1	1.5	1.1	1.6	2.8
Lumber products	1.4	1.5	0.0	-0.9	-0.4
Petroleum and coal products	1.1	1.6	0.5	-0.5	-0.6
Excluding petroleum and coal products	0.4	0.2	0.2	-1.0	-0.6

Property and Casualty Insurers Report Underwriting Loss

In the third quarter, property and casualty insurers reported an underwriting loss of \$162 million, a significant increase from the \$101 million loss recorded in the third quarter of 1986. This loss resulted from a 17% increase in claims to \$2.2 billion, while earned premiums only rose by 13% to total \$2.9 billion. Net investment income amounted to \$433 million, up \$56 million from the same period of 1986. For the first nine months of 1987, property and casualty insurers reported after-tax income of \$1.1 billion, a significant increase from the \$766 million reported for the same period of 1986.

Canadian sales of investment funds stood at \$2.8 billion in the third quarter, \$100 million higher than in the same quarter of the previous year. Net sales, after redemptions, totalled \$121 million in the quarter, down sharply when compared to \$1.5 billion in the third quarter of 1986 and \$2.3 billion in the second quarter of 1987. Total assets of funds at market value were \$32.5 billion, up substantially from a year earlier when assets amounted to \$21.9 billion and the second quarter of 1987 (\$30.8 billion).

For further information, contact Industrial Organization and Finance at (613) 951-2512 or order Financial Institutions (catalogue number 61-006).

Growth in Industrial Employment Moderates

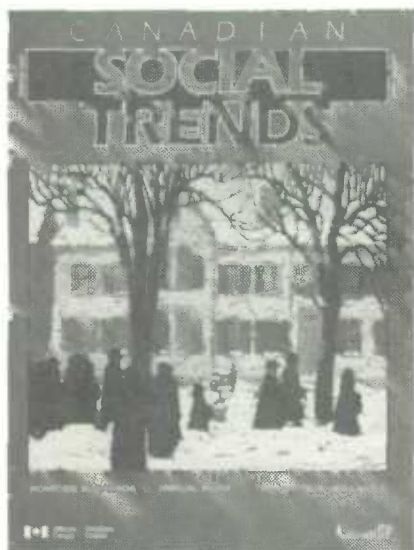
In October, the total number of employees at the Canada industrial aggregate level was estimated to be 10.2 million, up 2.6% from October 1986. Year-to-year increases have moderated somewhat in recent months as employment growth in the service-producing industries has slowed. In October, the year-to-year change in employment in these industries was 1.6%, the lowest growth rate recorded this year. The goods-producing industries, on the other hand, have shown improvement throughout 1987. These changes in employment reflect the relative performance of various sectors of the economy. For example, manufacturing and construction have reported record production levels,

and mining has shown a marked improvement over 1986, while the service sector has been affected by lower output growth.

Compared to October 1986, average weekly earnings were up 4.4%, to \$450.97. The year-to-year changes were roughly equal for both the goods-producing and service-producing industries in October. The rate of growth in the service-producing industries decreased from May to August before accelerating in the last two months, while the rate for the goods-producing industries has generally improved since the start of the year.

For further information, contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4090 or order Employment, Earnings and Hours (catalogue number 72-002).

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



Canadian Social Trends

Winter 1987

Canadian Social Trends, Statistics Canada's flagship quarterly publication, continues to interpret the major social and demographic trends affecting Canadian society, with the release today of its winter 1987 issue.

This issue features articles on homicide rates in Canada, women in male-dominated professions, urbanization, social housing, and lone-parent families headed by women. A statistical profile on Calgary is also featured, as well as a 1986 Census highlight on the aging of the Canadian population.

Order *Canadian Social Trends* (11-008E, \$12.50/\$44), now available from Publication Sales (613-951-7276). Further information is available from the editors at (613) 951-2560.



Market Research Handbook

1987-88

Published in hardcover and in colour, the new Handbook's 764 pages, including 59 charts, present up-to-date marketing information essential to planners, researchers and analysts in business and government.

Extensive economic statistics include the latest data available on the national economy, small business, Canada-U.S. trade, personal income and expenditure, as well as data on housing, labour and consumers in 59 urban regions.

The Handbook has also captured the latest demographic data on Canada, the provinces and urban regions, including the newly released 1986 Census of population, and updated population and household projections to the year 2006.

Order the 1987-88 edition of the *Market Research Handbook* (63-224, \$85) or contact Maurice Massaad at (613) 951-9682. Users wishing to examine the Handbook before buying it, can do so by visiting the nearest regional reference centre (see page 7).

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM JANUARY 5 - 7

CENSUS

Profiles - Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations: Part I, 1986. Catalogue number 94-127 (Canada: \$27; Other Countries: \$28).

HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

Canadian Social Trends, Winter 1987. Catalogue number 11-008E (Canada: \$12.50/\$44; Other Countries: \$15/\$50).

General Social Survey, Analysis Series, Health and Social Support, 1985. Catalogue number 11-612E (Canada: \$30; Other Countries: \$32).

INDUSTRY

Coal and Coke Statistics, September 1987. Catalogue number 45-002 (Canada: \$9/\$90; Other Countries: \$10/\$100).

Department Store Monthly Sales, by Province and Metropolitan Area, October 1987. Catalogue number 63-004 (Canada: \$2/\$20; Other Countries: \$3/\$30).

Department Store Sales and Stocks, June 1987. Catalogue number 63-002 (Canada: \$13/\$130; Other Countries: \$14/\$140).

Electric Power Statistics, Volume III, Inventory of Prime Mover and Electric Generating Equipment, December 31, 1986. Catalogue number 57-206 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21).

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

Fruit and Vegetable Preservation Service Bulletin, Vol. 16, No. 2, Pack of Processed Raspberries, 1987. Catalogue number 32-023 (Canada: \$6/\$100; Other Countries: \$7/\$110).

Market Research Handbook, 1987-88. Catalogue number 63-224 (Canada: \$85; Other Countries: \$101).

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

Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, November 1987. Catalogue number 32-022 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Production and Shipments of Blow-moulded Plastic Bottles, Quarter Ended September 30, 1987. Catalogue number 47-006 (Canada: \$5/\$20; Other Countries: \$6/\$24).

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

Quarterly Shipments of Office Furniture Products, Quarter Ended September 30, 1987. Catalogue number 35-006 (Canada: \$5/\$20; Other Countries: \$6/\$24).

Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics, September 1987. Catalogue number 63-011 (Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60).

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

Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, October 1987. Catalogue number 41-006 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

LABOUR

Labour Force Information, December 1987. Catalogue Number 71-001P (Canada: \$5.50/\$55; Other Countries: \$6.50/\$65).

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK

Science Statistics Service Bulletin, Vol. 11, No. 12, R&D Expenditures of Private Non-profit Organizations, 1986. Catalogue number 88-001 (Canada: \$6/\$60; Other Countries: \$7/\$70).

SERVICES

Computer Service Industry, 1985. Catalogue number 63-222 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21).

TRANSPORTATION

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

Railway Transport in Canada - Commodity Statistics, 1986. Catalogue number 52-211 (Canada: \$42.50; Other Countries: \$44).

Road Motor Vehicles - Registrations, 1986. Catalogue number 53-219 (Canada: \$10; Other Countries: \$11).

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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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Local calls: 973-6586
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Local calls: 753-4888
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LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Oct.	450.97	447.40	4.4
Labour Income (\$ million)	Sept.	24,825	24,497	7.0
Persons with Jobs (million)	Nov.	12.05	12.16	3.8
Unemployed (million)	Nov.	1.0	1.0	-12.7
INVENTORIES				
Department Store (\$ million)	Oct.	5,185	4,764	5.5
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Oct.	33,879	33,777	2.0
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Oct.	23,356	23,439	6.2
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Oct.	24,595	24,836	2.5
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Nov.	140.4	139.8	4.2
New House Price Index (1981=100)	Oct.	122.5	122.0	13.2
Raw Materials Price Index (1981=100)	Nov.*	104.4	104.5	10.6
Excl. minerals fuels	Nov.*	111.8	112.0	5.7
Industrial Product Price Index (1981=100)	Nov.*	124.9	124.4	4.2
CONSTRUCTION				
Building Permits (\$ million)	Sept.	2,815	23,363	27.8
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	Oct.	16,894	183,247	29.9
ENERGY				
Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Sept.	5,479	43,673	5.9
Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)	Sept.	34,846	355,129	6.7
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Sept.	8,537	79,720	5.0
FOREIGN TRADE				
Exports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Oct.	11,261	103,592	3.5
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Oct.	10,073	94,315	2.0
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	1,118	9,529	1.2
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Oct.	23,597	216,547	3.6
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	2,222	20,344	9.2
Refined Petroleum Products (thousand cubic metres)	Oct.	7,127	66,270	3.0
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	13,759	124,015	9.4

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

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

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