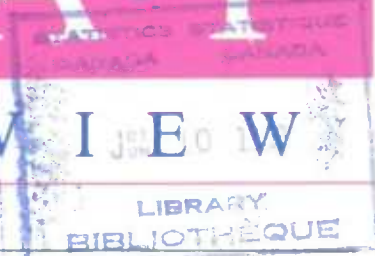


I·N·F·O·M·A·T

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

Friday, June 10, 1988



OVERVIEW

Retail Sales Up a Robust 3.3%

Retail sales totalled \$13.6 billion in March, an increase of 3.3% from February. This increase follows declines in January and February.

New House Prices Continue to Rise

New housing prices continued to move upward in April, rising 1.8% from March and 8.7% from a year earlier.

Continued Strength in International Travel

Non-resident overnight trips to Canada were up 3% in April from a year earlier. Overnight trips by Canadians to foreign destinations rose 10% over the same period, continuing a trend that began in August 1986.

Help-Wanted Index Decreases

The help-wanted index decreased to 144 in May from 149 in April. The Canada index has fluctuated around this level since the beginning of the year after rising steadily during 1987.

Drug Offences Up 9% in 1987

Narcotic Control Act offences known to the police increased 9% to 227 per 100,000 population in 1987 from 208 in 1986.

Record Number of Divorces in 1986

A total of 78,160 divorces were granted in 1986, an increase of 26.1% over the number granted in 1985.

Retail Sales Up a Robust 3.3%

Retail sales, adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, totalled \$13.6 billion in March, an increase of 3.3% from February. Excluding new and used motor vehicles, retail trade rose 2.3% in March. The occurrence of Easter in early April may have contributed to increased sales in March.

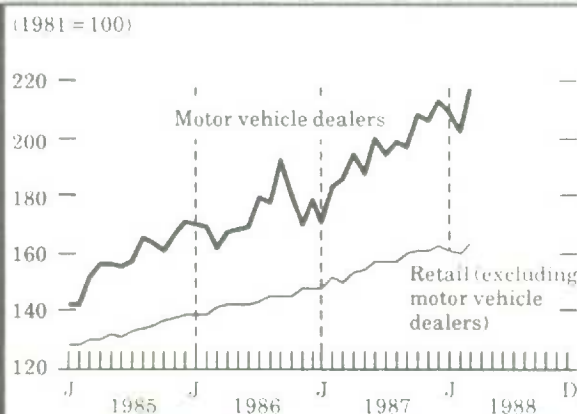
The sharp increase in March followed declining retail sales in January and February. Overall, retail sales have risen a modest 0.2% in the first quarter of 1988, compared to the average quarterly advance of 2.9% in 1987.

The March increase was broadly based with 25 of the 28 trade groups recording higher sales. The most significant sales increases, in order of dollar impact, were reported by motor vehicle dealers, department stores and combination stores.

The 7.2% advance in sales by motor vehicle dealers followed two consecutive monthly declines. The strong increase in March coincided with manufacturers' promotions and buyer incentive programs.

(continued on page 2)

Retail Trade Indexes



Statistics
Canada

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Canada

Canada

... Retail Sales Up a Robust 3.3%

Department store sales were up 4.1% in March. Following strong growth in the last three months of 1987, department store sales were down sharply in January and recorded a modest decline in February.

Combination stores (grocery and meat stores) registered a sales gain of 1.4% in March, continuing the rising trend noted since August 1987. This trend was interrupted in January when sales dropped 2.0%.

All provinces and territories posted gains in March, with increases ranging from 5.7% in Prince Edward Island to 1.1% in both Newfoundland and Manitoba.

Retail Trade

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
% change, previous month					
Grocery & meat stores	0.0	1.9	-2.0	0.6	1.4
Department stores	0.9	1.6	-5.4	-0.8	4.1
Motor vehicle dealers	-0.8	3.3	-1.7	-3.0	7.2
All stores	-0.1	1.5	-1.2	-1.0	3.3
All stores excl. motor	0.1	1.1	-1.1	-0.5	2.3

For further information contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3552, or order Retail Trade (catalogue 63-005).

New House Prices Continue to Rise

In April, the new housing price index for Canada stood at 128.3 (1981 = 100), up 1.8% from March. This index of Canadian housing contractors' selling prices was 8.7% higher than the level a year earlier.

Among the cities surveyed, Toronto showed the largest monthly increase (4.0%), followed by Saint John-Moncton with an increase of 3.2%. London registered a monthly increase of 2.7%.

Central Canadian cities along with Calgary and Victoria continued to lead other Canadian cities in year-over-year increases in new housing prices. The yearly increase for Montreal was equal to that of Toronto (11.3%), but both were exceeded by Hamilton (13.6%).

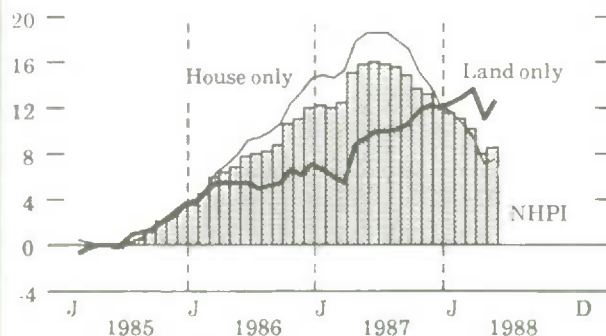
The new housing price index can be subdivided into "house only" and "land only" components, the "house only" component having the larger weight. In the

Housing Price Indexes

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
% change, previous month					
New Housing	0.2	0.3	1.1	0.9	1.8
land only	0.4	0.7	1.2	1.0	2.2
house only	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.9	1.8

New Housing Price Indexes

(% change, previous year)

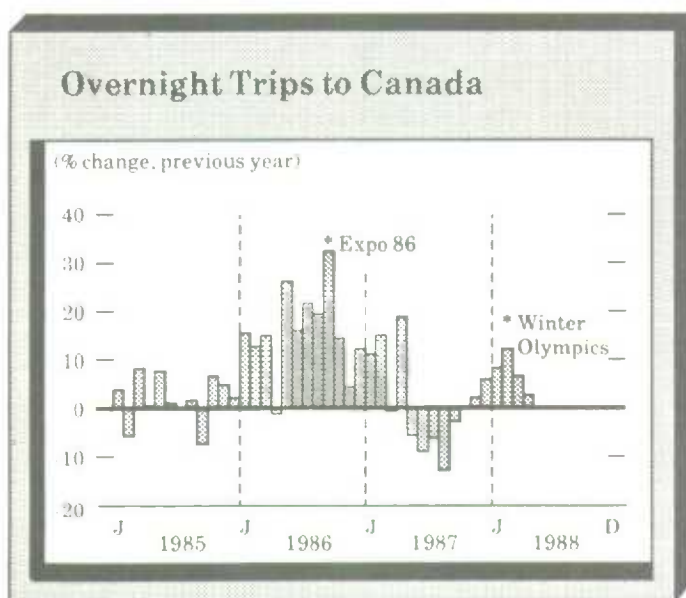


accompanying chart, the year-over-year price increases of each of these two components are compared against the backdrop of the aggregate new housing price index. "House only" price increases have been decelerating since mid-1987. "Land only" prices increases, however, have trended upward over this period, and from December 1987 have exceeded the year-over-year price increases of the "house only" component.

For further information, contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9607 or order Construction Price Statistics (catalogue number 62-007).

Continued Strength in International Travel

Preliminary estimates indicate that non-resident trips of one or more nights to Canada in April 1988 were 3% above those of April 1987, marking a sixth consecutive monthly record level. In the first four months of 1988, these volumes were up 7% over the same period in 1987.



Even though trips of one or more nights to Canada represent only one-third of total trips, they bring in more money than same-day trips. American residents account for the majority (93%) of trips into Canada. Only 29% of American residents who travelled to Canada stayed for one or more nights while most residents of other countries (86%) did so.

Despite an increase in overnight trips, total trips to Canada by United States residents decreased by 1% from April 1987 to 2.3 million. This resulted in a third consecutive monthly decline over the same period a year ago.

Total trips to Canada by residents of countries other than the United States increased 19% to 169,600 during April. Record levels have been established since August 1986.

Total international trips to all foreign destinations by Canadian residents were 12% above last April, continuing a trend that began in August 1986.

The highest April level on record was registered for the number of overnight visits by Canadian residents travelling outside Canada. These figures renew the upward trend interrupted by the slight downturn experienced in March.

For further information, contact Education, Culture and Tourism Division (613) 951-8933 or order International Travel - Advance Information (catalogue number 66-001P).

Help-Wanted Index Decreases

- The seasonally adjusted help-wanted index for Canada (1981=100) decreased to 144 from 149 between April and May 1988, falling to a level just above that observed in March. The Canada Index has fluctuated around this level since the start of the year.
- The help-wanted index monitors the space devoted to help-wanted ads published in 18 major metropolitan area newspapers and serves as an indicator of the demand for labour.
- Between April and May, the index decreased in all regions. It declined in the Atlantic provinces, following large swings since January, and in British Columbia, where it had been increasing since September. The decrease in the Prairie region followed increases since February. The slight drop

Help-wanted Index (1981 = 100)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May
	seasonally adjusted				
Canada	138	146	143	149	144
Atlantic Region	181	154	172	209	189
Quebec	144	163	160	155	153
Ontario	190	197	194	201	198
Prairie Region	62	58	60	70	66
British Columbia	58	58	56	60	56

in Quebec was the third consecutive decline since February. In Ontario, the index has been fluctuating since February.

For further information, contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4045, or order Help-wanted Index (catalogue 71-204).

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM JUNE 3-9

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM

Elementary-Secondary School Enrolment, 1986-1987. Catalogue number 81-210 (Canada: \$24; Other Countries: \$25).

HEALTH

List of Residential Care Facilities in Canada, 1987. Catalogue number 83-221 (Canada: \$31; Other Countries: \$32).

HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

Labour Force Information, May 1988. Catalogue number 71-001P (Canada: \$5.50/\$55; Other Countries: \$6.50/\$65). Available June 10th at 7:00 a.m.

INDUSTRY

Asphalt Roofing, April 1988. Catalogue number 45-001 (Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Cement, March 1988. Catalogue number 44-001 (Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers, April 1988. Catalogue number 36-004 (Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Fruit and Vegetable Preservation Service Bulletin, Vol 16, No. 6, Pack of Processed Corn, 1987. Catalogue number 32-023 (Canada: \$7/\$115; Other Countries: \$8/\$125).

Fruit and Vegetable Preservation Service Bulletin, Vol. 16, No. 20, Pack of Processed Cauliflower, 1987. Catalogue number 32-023 (Canada: \$7/\$115; Other Countries: \$8/\$125).

Fruit and Vegetable Preservation Service Bulletin, Vol 16, No. 35, Pack of Processed Mixed Vegetables, 1986 and 1987. Catalogue number 32-023 (Canada: \$7/\$115; Other Countries: \$8/\$125).

Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation, April 1988. Catalogue number 44-004 (Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Oil Pipe Line Transport, February 1988. Catalogue number 55-001 (Canada: \$9/\$90; Other Countries: \$10/\$100).

Primary Iron and Steel, March 1988. Catalogue number 41-001 (Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder, April 1988. Catalogue number 32-024 (Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe and Tubing, January 1988. Catalogue number 41-011 (Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, March 1988. Catalogue number 35-002 (Canada: \$9/\$90; Other Countries: \$10/\$100).

Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, February 1988. Catalogue number 25-001 (Canada: \$5.50/\$55; Other Countries: \$6.50/\$65).

Rigid Insulating Board, March 1988. Catalogue number 36-002 (Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances, April 1988. Catalogue number 43-003 (Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

The Sugar Situation, April 1988. Catalogue number 32-013 (Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Wholesale Trade, March 1988. Catalogue number 63-008 (Canada: \$5.50/\$55; Other Countries: \$6.50/\$65).

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Exports by Commodity, February 1988. Catalogue number 65-004 (Canada: \$50/\$500; Other Countries: \$60/\$600).

Exports, Merchandise Trade, 1987. Catalogue number 65-202 (Canada: \$150; Other Countries: \$169.50).

Summary of Canadian International Trade (H.S. Based), March 1988. Catalogue number 65-001 (Canada: \$16.50/\$165; Other Countries: \$17.50/\$175).

LABOUR

Unemployment Insurance Statistics, February 1988. Catalogue number 73-001 (Canada: \$13/\$130; Other Countries: \$14/\$140).

LIBRARY SERVICES

Statistics Canada Catalogue, 1987-1988. Catalogue number 11-204E (Canada: \$10; Other Countries: \$11.50).

SERVICES

Communications Service Bulletin, Vol. 18, No. 2, Telecommunication Statistics, First Quarter 1988. Catalogue number 56-001 (Canada: \$7.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$8.50/\$51).

TRANSPORTATION

Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics, March 1988. Catalogue number 53-003 (Canada: \$6.50/\$65; Other Countries: \$7.50/\$75).

Drug Offences Up 9% in 1987

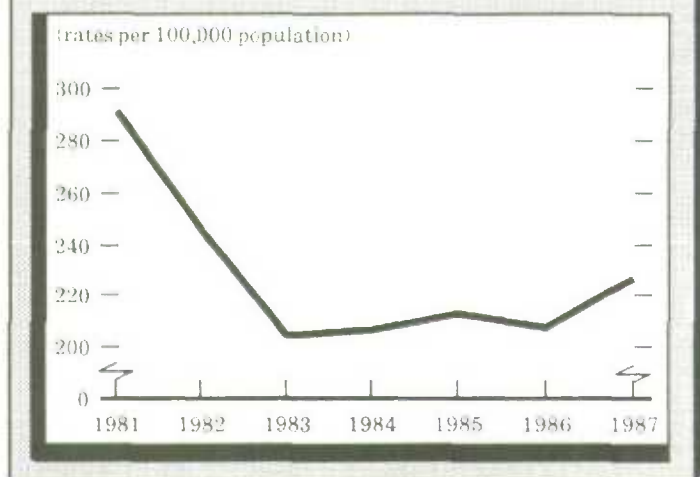
Narcotic Control Act (NCA) offences known to the police increased 9% to 227 per 100,000 population in 1987 from 208 in 1986. Between 1980 and 1986, drug offences under the NCA declined 28%.

The number of drug-related incidents known to the police is affected by changes in enforcement practices and by the changing policies of law enforcement agencies. Since 1979, surveys have suggested that cannabis use has declined, particularly among high school students.

Rates of NCA offences were higher in the western provinces and territories than in the eastern provinces. In 1987, the highest rates occurred in the Yukon (713) and the Northwest Territories (500), and the lowest were in Quebec (125) and Prince Edward Island (126).

Cannabis offences accounted for 74% of total NCA offences known to police in 1987. Rates of cannabis offences declined 40% between 1980 and 1986 before rising 4% in 1987. Conversely, rates of cocaine offences have increased continuously over the same period. They nearly quadrupled between 1980 and 1986 and rose a further 23% in 1987. Rates of heroin offences increased 40% from 1980 to 1986 before declining 20% in 1987.

Narcotic Control Act Offences



For further information contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (613) 951-6643 or order *Juristat Bulletin, Drug Offences in Canada, 1962-1987* (catalogue number 85-002).

Divorces in Canada, 1986

A total of 78,160 divorces were granted in Canada in 1986, an increase of 26.1% over the number granted in 1985. This figure represents the highest number of divorces ever recorded in Canada and is a reversal of the decline in the annual number of divorces that began in 1983 and continued through 1985.

This increase may partially reflect recent changes in divorce legislation which came into effect on June 1, 1986, where the period of separation required for divorce has been reduced from three years to one. The full impact of the change in legislation will not be known for some time.

The majority of divorces granted in 1986 (76%) were granted under the Divorce Act that was in force between July 2, 1968 and May 31, 1986. The remaining 24% were granted under the Divorce Act, 1985 that came into force on June 1, 1986.

Under the 1968 Divorce Act, a divorce could be obtained for either of two major reasons, or a combination of both. The first reason was "matrimonial offence", such as adultery or physical or mental cruelty. The second reason was "marriage breakdown", by reason of desertion, imprisonment or separation for at least three years.

Among the divorces recorded under the 1968 Divorce Act in 1986, adultery was cited in 34% of the divorces granted and marriage breakdown by reason of separation for not less than three years was cited in 43% of cases.

However, with the initiation of the 1985 Divorce Act, marriage breakdown has become the sole grounds for divorce. Under the new law, there are four reasons for marriage breakdown, including separation for not less than one year, adultery, physical cruelty and mental cruelty. Separation was cited as a reason for marriage breakdown in 91% of the cases. The other reasons, including adultery, physical cruelty and mental cruelty were cited much less frequently (14%). (It remains possible to cite more than one reason for marriage breakdown.)

The highest divorce rates were observed in Alberta and British Columbia and the lowest in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. Among the provinces, the largest increase in the divorce rate between 1985 and 1986 was observed in Ontario (35%), followed by increases in British Columbia (33%), Manitoba (25%) and Saskatchewan (25%).

Children were involved in one-third (34%) of the divorces granted under the new Divorce Act in 1986, compared to just over one-half (52%) among the divorces granted under the 1968 Divorce Act in 1986.

Among the 3,550 divorces granted under the new act in which there was a custody order, the wife was awarded custody in 75% of the cases, 12% were awarded to the husband, 11% were involved in a joint custody arrangement and 2% were awarded to a person other than the husband or wife.

For further information, contact Health Division, (613) 951-1631 or order *Marriages and Divorces* (catalogue number 84-205).



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LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Mar.	459.40	455.73	5.2
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.	24,221	24,217	6.6
Persons with Jobs (million)	Apr.	12.08	12.00	3.8
Unemployed (thousand)	Apr.	1,085	1,181	-14.6
INVENTORIES				
Department Store (\$ million)	Feb.	4,208	3,749	4.8
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb.	35,371	34,911	5.2
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	22,408	21,518	9.2
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	25,013	24,747	4.7
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Apr.	142.5	142.0	4.0
New House Price Index (1981=100)	Apr.*	128.3	126.0	8.7
Raw Materials Price Index (1981=100)	Apr.	97.9	98.3	-1.2
Excl. minerals fuels	Apr.	114.1	113.0	7.8
Industrial Product Price Index (1981=100)	Apr.	126.3	125.9	4.2
CONSTRUCTION				
Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec.	2,409	30,437	23.3
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	Mar.*	11,583	32,443	-15.4
ENERGY				
Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Mar.	6,275	18,216	26.4
Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)	Mar.*	45,590	140,479	4.4
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Feb.	11,298	23,825	18.3
FOREIGN TRADE				
Exports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Mar.	12,013	33,347	10.2
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Mar.	11,718	31,581	15.0
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	715	1,445	2.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.	22,143	43,300	8.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	2,705	5,988	1.7
Refined Petroleum Products (thousand cubic metres)	Apr.	5,960	26,036	37.8
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Mar.*	13,184	35,277	11.2

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

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