

# I·N·F·O·M·A·T

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

Friday, April 14, 1989

### OVERVIEW

#### ■ Labour Market Relatively Stable

Employment was up slightly in March and the unemployment rate edged down. In general, measures of labour market conditions continued to show little change.

#### ■ Building Permits Ease Slightly

Following a sharp rise in December, the overall value of building permits retreated slightly in January despite higher intentions for the multi-family, industrial and institutional sectors.

#### ■ Motor Vehicle Sales Register Marginal Growth in February

Motor vehicle sales were up slightly in February. However, total sales continue to follow a downward trend.

#### ■ Slower Growth in Wages and Salaries

The 0.5% increase in wages and salaries in January was lower than the advances recorded in the two preceding months.

#### ■ New Housing Prices Escalate

In February, housing price advances in Toronto continued to accelerate, while other central Canadian cities posted moderate growth.

#### ■ Volume of Canadians Travelling Abroad Still Growing

International trips by Canadians posted a monthly increase of 2% in February. The number of Canadians returning from abroad has risen steadily in the last two years.

This issue also includes information on the Farm Product Price Index and Youth in Canada.

### Labour Market Relatively Stable

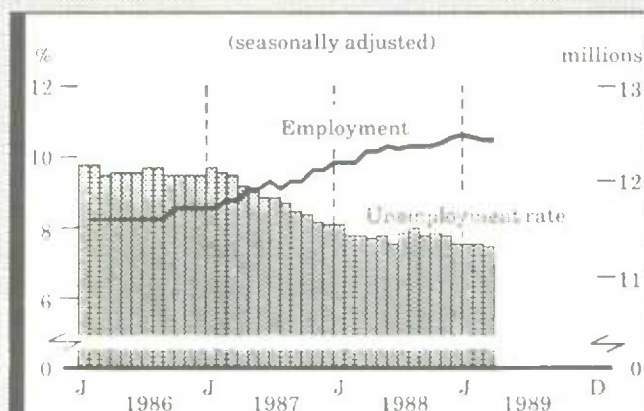
Estimates from the Labour Force Survey show that the level of employment was up slightly in March, recovering most of the decrease noted in February. The unemployment rate edged down, but the other measures of labour market conditions were basically unchanged in March.

Employment for young people (age 15 to 24) advanced 25,000, largely offsetting the decrease posted in February. Generally, youth employment has been growing in 1989, a contrast with the last six months of 1988. Employment among persons 25 and older was unchanged. The upward trend in employment for workers 25 and older has slowed in recent months.

The increase in employment was mostly accounted for by females, a return to the trend noted in 1988 when female employment generally grew at a faster rate than male employment. Full-time employment continued to rise. Part-time employment also increased, following a sharp decline in February.

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### Unemployment Rate and Employment



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### ... Labour Market Relatively Stable

The level of unemployment was virtually unchanged from February. The unemployment rate dropped to 7.5%, after holding at 7.6% for three consecutive months.

For further information, order *Labour Force Information* (catalogue number 71-001P) for summary data or contact Household Surveys Division at (613) 951-4720.

### Labour Force

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
	Change, previous month				
Labour force ('000)	48	-2	90	-23	13
Employment ('000)	64	16	89	-28	25
15-24 years ('000)	31	-3	42	-35	25
25 years & over ('000)	33	19	47	7	0
Unemployment ('000)	-16	-18	1	5	-12
Unemployment rate	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.5

### Building Permits Ease Slightly

Following a sharp rise in December, the value of building permits eased slightly in January (-2.0%). Building intentions for the multi-family, industrial and institutional sectors continued to rise.

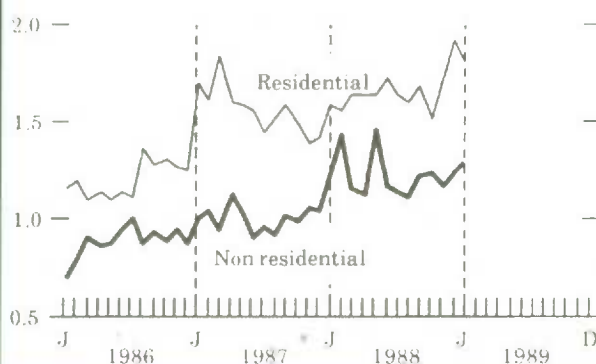
The value of building permits issued in January totalled \$3.1 billion, down slightly from the level reported in December. The major increase in December followed four months of little growth.

Residential building permits decreased 6% in January, after advancing more than 10% in December. The decline in the current month was a result of lower building intentions for single-family dwellings. Permits issued for multi-family dwellings were up a further 2.9%.

The value of non-residential permits rose for the second consecutive month, advancing 4.4% to \$1.3 billion. The industrial and institutional sectors continued to advance, while the commercial component was down (-3.3%) for the third consecutive month.

### Building Permits

(billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted)



For further information, order *Building Permits* (catalogue number 64-001) or contact Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division at (613) 951-2583.

### Motor Vehicle Sales Register Marginal Growth

Seasonally adjusted sales of new motor vehicles totalled 123,000 units in February, and registered a marginal increase over the previous month. The rising trend observed from July to September has given way to a slightly downward change in total sales.

Car sales edged up (0.8%), while commercial vehicle sales were unchanged. Sales of North American cars followed up a major decline in January with a decrease of 2.4% in February.

Imported car sales increased 7.5%, rising for the fourth consecutive month. This recent period of moderate growth contrasts with slowing sales in the first half of 1988.

### Motor Vehicle Sales

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	% change, previous month				
Passenger cars	-6.3	-0.3	10.4	-13.6	0.8
North American	1.1	-2.2	12.0	-19.1	-2.4
Imported	-21.8	4.8	6.3	0.9	7.5
Commercial vehicles	-2.0	-0.1	2.2	-4.6	0.0

Commercial vehicle sales fluctuated throughout 1988, but the size of the fluctuations has moderated in the last seven months.

For further information, order *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (catalogue number 63-007) or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3552.

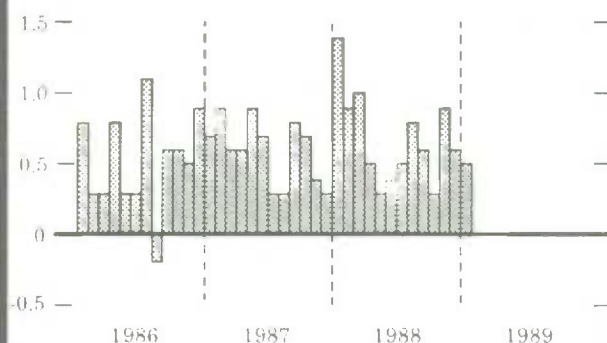
## Slower Growth in Wages and Salaries

In January, the seasonally adjusted estimates of wages and salaries rose 0.5%, which was lower than the advances registered in the two preceding months. The year-over-year increase in wages and salaries has also slowed, dropping to 7.6% from 8% in December.

In the manufacturing industries, wages and salaries increased for the seventh month in a row. The advance of 1.2% was in line with increases in recent months. Large gains were also recorded for health and welfare services (1.4%), provincial administration (1.2%), local administration (1.1%) and trade (1.0%). Wages and salaries in all the provinces were up less than 1%, but the estimates for the Yukon and Northwest Territories, and abroad increased 1.5%.

### Wages and Salaries

(% change, previous month)



For further information, order *Estimates of Labour Income* (catalogue number 72-005) or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4051.

## New Housing Prices Escalate

In February, housing prices in Toronto continued to accelerate, while other central Canadian cities posted moderate advances.

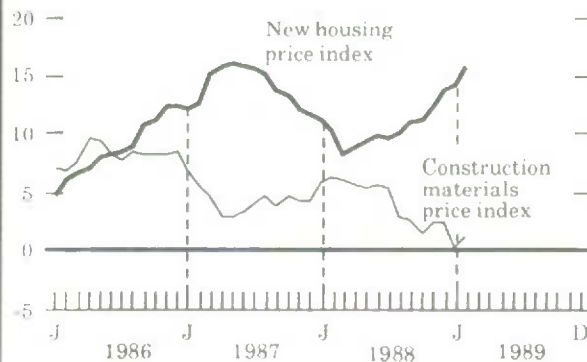
The new housing price index rose 2.5% in February, the fourth consecutive month in which a strong advance was posted. On a year-over-year basis, the index was up 15.9%.

Vancouver registered the largest monthly increase of all cities surveyed (5.4%). Cities in Alberta and British Columbia have shown strengthening house prices in the last several months. In Alberta, new housing prices were close to the 1981 reference level, while in B.C. prices were still well below those registered in 1981.

The strong growth of housing prices noted in Toronto since September continued in February when prices rose 3.5% over January. London and Kitchener-Waterloo have registered large price advances in recent months, but their year-over-year increases were moderate (10-12%) when compared to the 31% rise for Toronto.

### New Housing and Building Material Price Indexes

(% change, previous year)



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

## Youth in Canada

Canada's population is growing "older" and the proportion of youth (those aged 15-24) is shrinking. At the same time, the socio-economic profile of youth has changed dramatically in recent years.

More youth today are likely to be living at home with their parents, pursuing higher education, deciding to remain single and working part-time, than their

counterparts a decade or more ago. Indications are that older youth (those aged 20-24) are heavier drinkers, smokers and drug users than either their younger or adult counterparts. Live births to unmarried females in this group increased more than three-fold in 10 years.

*Youth in Canada, 1971-1986* provides an insight into Canada's young people by exploring, among other

(continued on page 4)



### ... Youth in Canada

things, their demographic and cultural characteristics, living arrangements, educational attainment, labour force activity and health.

For further information, order *Youth in Canada* (catalogue number 89-511) or contact Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division at (613) 951-2571.

## Volume of Canadians Travelling Abroad Still Growing

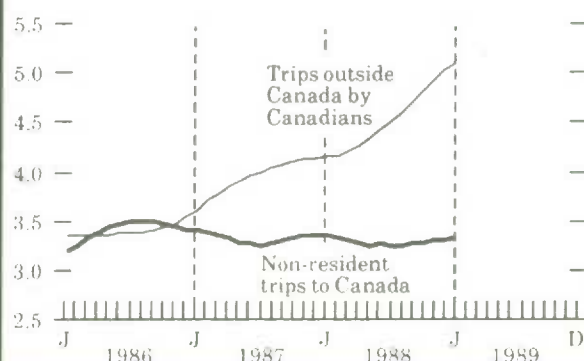
The seasonally adjusted volume of international trips by Canadian residents posted an increase (2%) in February, further extending the strong rising trend evident over the last two years. Travel to both the United States and overseas countries was up over the previous month.

While tourist trips (overnight visits) by Canadians have risen sharply, the number of travellers returning to Canada after less than 24 hours has registered phenomenal growth. This trend has been particularly noticeable in British Columbia, Ontario and New Brunswick where major U.S. cities are within a reasonable distance of the border.

The volume of foreign travellers to Canada declined 2.5% in February. The upward trend in international travellers evident since mid-1988 has slowed in recent months. Trips by United States residents were the primary source of this slowdown.

### International Travel

(millions of trips, short-term trend)



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

## Farm Product Prices Still Rising

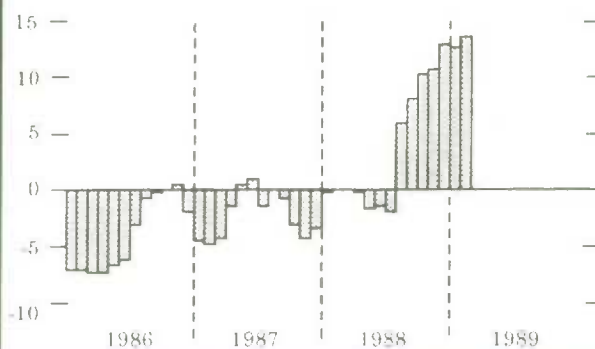
The farm product price index (1981 = 100) stood at 101.6 in February, up 0.7% over January. The index has risen in nine of the last twelve months. Livestock prices continued to rise, while crop prices dropped slightly.

The livestock and animal products index was up 1.6%. The index has shown little change over the last 12 months; the increase in February was the largest monthly advance since August 1988. Overall, this index was just 0.8% above year-earlier levels.

The crops index posted a marginal decline of 0.7%, contrasting with the general rising trend evident over the last 12 months. Cereal prices, which have been particularly strong, registered a decrease. Oilseed prices continued to display significant month-to-month changes, dropping 5.5% in February.

### Farm Product Price Index

(% change from previous year)



For further information, order *Farm Product Price Index* (catalogue number 62-003) or contact Agriculture Division at (613) 951-2441.

## CURRENT TRENDS\*

## Gross Domestic Product

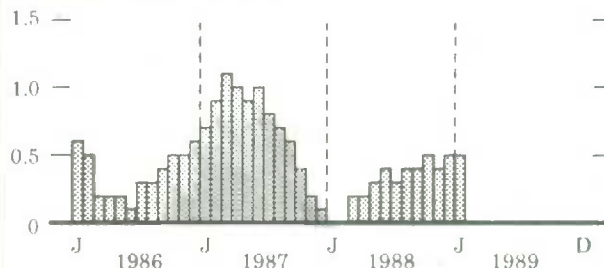
(% change, previous month)



Agriculture was the main contributor to economic growth in January, when GDP rose for the third month in a row.

## Composite Leading Indicator

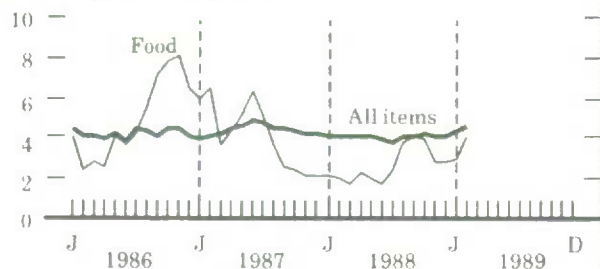
(% change, previous month)



The leading indicator advanced 0.5% in January, similar to the gains registered since September.

## Consumer Price Index

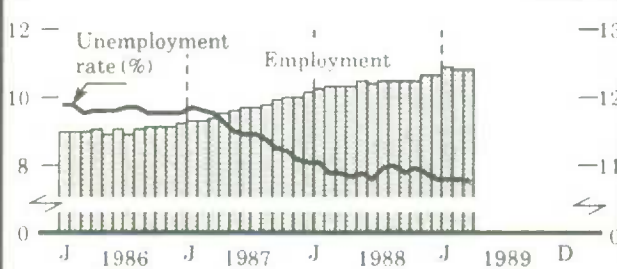
(% change, previous year)



The CPI was up 0.7% in February, the largest monthly advance since July 1987.

## Unemployment Rate and Employment

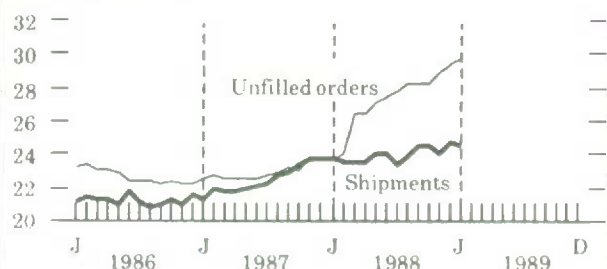
Unemployment rate (%)      millions



Despite some slight changes in March, labour market conditions have been relatively stable in 1989.

## Manufacturing

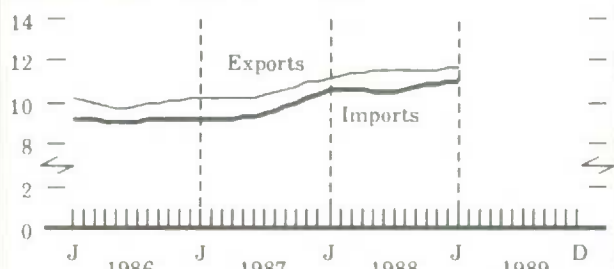
(billions of dollars)



The value of manufacturing shipments dropped slightly in January, after posting a substantial increase in December.

## Merchandise Trade

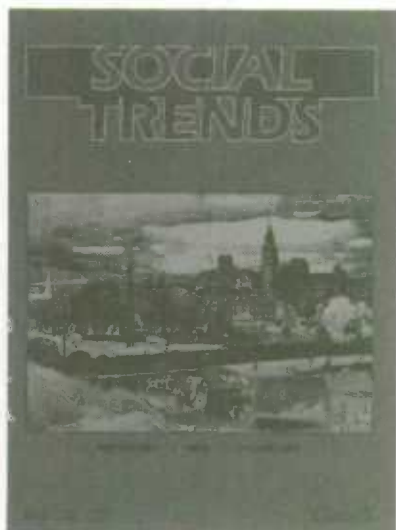
(billions of dollars, short-term trend)



In January, the level of exports rose by \$500 million, while imports were \$300 higher than in December.

\* All series are seasonally adjusted except the consumer price index.

## NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



### Canadian Social Trends

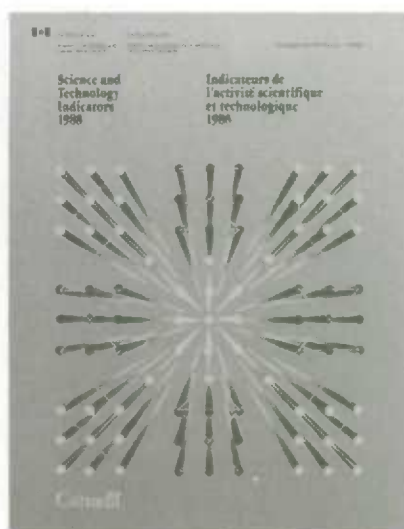
Spring 1989

*Canadian Social Trends* has released its Spring 1989 issue. This flagship publication continues to interpret the major social and demographic trends affecting Canadian society.

Based on in-depth statistical research, each quarterly edition of *Canadian Social Trends* brings together the latest available social data and presents an interesting series of articles in a professional yet easy-to-read style.

This issue features articles on impaired driving offences, private transportation, women in professional occupations, self-employment, the service sector, dual-earner families and a 1986 Census highlight on changes in living arrangements.

For further information, contact the editors at (613) 951-2560.

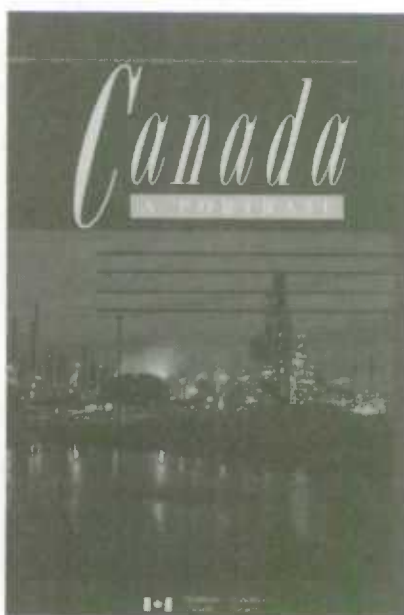


### Science and Technology Indicators

Scientific and technological change is one of the factors which determines the competitiveness of a firm, business sector, regional or national economy. For that reason it is important to develop indicators of this activity that describe and thus lead to a better understanding of the scientific and technological system and its role in our society and the Canadian economy.

*Science and Technology Indicators 1988* addresses this need by presenting such indicators of scientific and technological activities as: human resources for science and technology, expenditures on research and development, Canadian research output, the application of technology and the international transfer of technology.

For further information, contact Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division at (613) 951-9920.



### Canada: A Portrait

The release today of the 52nd edition of *Canada: A Portrait* marks a turning point in the evolution of its 60 year-old publishing history. Redesigned, and sporting a new title, this publication captures the tradition and technology of Canada while recording present Canadian conditions and recent progress.

Combining over 200 colour photographs with charts, tables and concise text, the publication provides the latest facts and figures on a diverse range of subjects. Included in the subject matter are such topics as the land, history, education, arts and culture, communication, health and welfare, the government and legal system, the economy and the labour scene.

*Canada: A Portrait* (catalogue number 11-403E) is now available at leading bookstores across Canada and through Statistics Canada's regional reference centres.

For more information, contact Communications Division at (613) 951-1114.



## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM APRIL 10 TO APRIL 13

### CENSUS

**Caribbean Immigrants.** Catalogue number 91-536E (Canada: \$25; Other Countries: \$30).

**The Nation: Employment Income by Occupation,** 1986 Census. Catalogue number 93-116 (Canada: \$42; Other Countries: \$52).

**The Nation: Labour Force Activity,** 1986 Census. Catalogue number 93-111 (Canada: \$46; Other Countries: \$56).

### HEALTH

**Residential Care Facilities for Mental Disorders,** 1984-85, 1985-86. Catalogue number 83-238 (Canada: \$24; Other Countries: \$25).

### INDUSTRY

**Annual Retail Trade,** 1986. Catalogue number 63-223 (Canada: \$21; Other Countries: \$25).

**Beverage and Tobacco Products Industries - Soft Drink Industry,** 1986 Census of Manufactures. Catalogue number 32-251B 1111 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

**Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables,** January 1989. Catalogue number 32-011 (Canada: \$4.70/\$47; Other Countries: \$5.60/\$56).

**Clothing Industries - Hosiery Industry,** 1986 Census of Manufactures. Catalogue number 34-252B 2494 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

**Clothing Industries - Other Clothing and Apparel Industries n.e.c.,** 1986 Census of Manufactures. Catalogue number 34-252B 2499 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

**Clothing Industries - Women's Coat and Jacket Industry,** 1986 Census of Manufactures. Catalogue number 34-252B 2441 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

**Clothing Industries - Women's Sportswear Industry,** 1986 Census of Manufactures. Catalogue number 34-252B 2442 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

**Department Store Monthly Sales, by Province and Metropolitan Area, Vol. 4, No. 1,** January 1989. Catalogue number 63-004 (Canada: \$2.50/\$25; Other Countries: \$3.50/\$35).

**Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries,** February 1989. Catalogue number 43-005 (Canada: \$4.70/\$47; Other Countries: \$5.60/\$56).

**Food Industries - Other Dairy Products Industries,** 1986 Census of Manufactures. Catalogue number 32-250B 1049 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

**Gypsum Products,** February 1989. Catalogue number 44-003 (Canada: \$4.70/\$47; Other Countries: \$5.60/\$56).

**Oil Pipe Line Transport,** December 1988. Catalogue number 55-001 (Canada: \$9.50/\$95; Other Countries: \$11.40/\$114).

**Other Manufacturing Industries - Floor Tile, Linoleum & Coated Fabric Industry,** 1986 Census of Manufactures. Catalogue number 47-250B 3993 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

**Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia,** January 1989. Catalogue number 35-003 (Canada: \$6.80/\$68; Other Countries: \$8.20/\$82).

### INDUSTRY - Concluded

**Refined Petroleum Products,** December 1988. Catalogue number 45-004 (Canada: \$17.30/\$173; Other Countries: \$20.80/\$208).

**Rigid Insulating Board (Wood Fibre Products),** February 1989. Catalogue number 36-002 (Canada: \$4.70/\$47; Other Countries: \$5.60/\$56).

**Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances,** February 1989. Catalogue number 43-003 (Canada: \$4.70/\$47; Other Countries: \$5.60/\$56).

**Textile Product Industries - Household Products of Textile Materials Industry,** 1986 Census of Manufactures. Catalogue number 34-251B 1993 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

### INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS

**Gross Domestic Product by Industry,** December 1988. Catalogue number 15-001 (Canada: \$11.50/\$115; Other Countries: \$12.50/\$125).

### INTERNATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS

**Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments,** Fourth Quarter 1988. Catalogue number 67-001 (Canada: \$26.25/\$105; Other Countries: \$31.50/\$126).

**Security Transactions with Non-residents,** January 1989. Catalogue number 67-002 (Canada: \$15/\$150; Other Countries: \$18/\$180).

### PRICES

**Consumer Price Index,** March 1989. Catalogue number 62-001 (Canada: \$8.50/\$85; Other Countries: \$9.50/\$95).

### SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK

**Private and Public Investment in Canada,** Intentions 1989. Catalogue number 61-205 (Canada: \$29; Other Countries: \$35).

**Architectural, Engineering and Scientific Services,** 1986. Catalogue number 63-537 (Canada: \$33; Other Countries: \$35).

### SERVICES

**Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics,** January 1989. Catalogue number 63-011 (Canada: \$5.80/\$58; Other Countries: \$7/\$70).

**Telephone Statistics,** January 1989. Catalogue number 56-002 (Canada: \$7.90/\$79; Other Countries: \$9.50/\$95).

### TRANSPORT

**Railway Carloadings,** February 1989. Catalogue number 52-001 (Canada: \$7.90/\$79; Other Countries: \$9.50/\$95).

**Railway Operating Statistics, Revised,** November 1988. Catalogue number 52-003 (Canada: \$9.50/\$95; Other Countries: \$10.50/\$105).



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## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Period	Level	Change Previous Period	Change Previous Year
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross Domestic Product (billion 1981 dollars)	Jan.	403	0.4%	3.7%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	Jan.	143.3	0.5%	4.2%
Profits of Industrial Corporations (\$ billion)	4th Q	9.4	1.2%	-2.1%
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	Jan.	14.3	-0.3%	7.3%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	Feb.*	123	0.5%	-0.6%
Housing Starts ('000, annual rates)	Feb.	228	-4.6%	12.3%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	Mar.*	12.4	0.2%	2.0%
Unemployment Rate (%)	Mar.*	7.5	-0.1	-0.2
Participation Rate (%)	Mar.*	67.0	-0.1	0.3
Labour Income (\$ billion)	Jan.*	27.3	0.2%	7.2%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Jan.	474.39	0.9%	4.4%
<b>EXTERNAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	Jan.	11.9	4.9%	9.6%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	Jan.	11.0	2.9%	14.7%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	Jan.	0.9	0.2	0.4
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billion)	Jan.	24.6	-0.3%	3.7%
New Orders (\$ billion)	Jan.	24.9	-1.2%	5.0%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	Jan.	29.7	0.9%	24.9%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	Jan.	1.56	0.01	0.04
Capacity Utilization (%)	4th Q	83.0	-0.7	-1.1
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1981 = 100)	Feb.	147.8	0.7%	4.6%
Industrial Product Price Index (1981 = 100)	Feb.	130.5	0.0%	3.6%
Raw Materials Price Index (1981 = 100)	Feb.	98.3	2.5%	-0.8%
New Housing Price Index (1981 = 100)	Feb.*	144.7	2.5%	15.9%

*Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of average weekly earnings and the price indexes.*

\* New this week.

## I·N·F·O·M·A·T

### A Weekly Review

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