

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, January 20, 1987

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## Major Releases

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### Consumer Price Index

December 1986

#### National Highlights

The all-items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada advanced by 0.1% between November and December, attaining a level of 134.9 (1981 = 100). This small increase in December contrasted with the 0.5% gain for each of the months of October and November. Only three of the seven major component indexes advanced, led by housing, up 0.4%, and transportation, also up 0.4%. These increases were largely offset by declines in both the food (-0.2%) and clothing (-0.2%) indexes. Two major component indexes remained unchanged.

The seasonally adjusted all-items index rose by 0.4% in December, following an increase of 0.6% in November and 0.4% in October.

The year-to-year change between December 1985 and December 1986 was 4.2%, down from the 4.5% posted in the 12-month period ending in November. However, the compounded annual rate of change based on the seasonally adjusted levels over the latest three-month period from September to December was 5.5%, up from the compounded rate of 4.9% for the period ending in November. The December result represents the highest three-month average rate since the beginning of 1986.

#### Food

Compared to an increase of 0.6% reported in November, the food index fell by 0.2% between November and December. This was due to a decline of 0.3% in the index for food purchased from stores and a moderate rise of 0.2% in the index for food purchased from restaurants.

The 0.3% decline posted for food purchased from stores resulted largely from lower prices for fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, poultry, coffee, and soft drinks. Notable decreases in fresh vegetables, which declined by an overall 4.6%, included celery (-17.3%), cucumbers (-15.8%) and tomatoes (-8.7%) as winter growing areas had good weather conditions. The fresh fruit index decreased by 5.2% as prices for bananas, apples, oranges and grapefruits declined.

Although the food index declined overall there were some notable increases for the month: meat products excluding poultry (2.3%), dairy products (0.8%), and bakery and other cereal products (0.9%).

Over the 12-month period, December 1985 to December 1986, the food index advanced by 6.5% compared to the increase of 8.1% recorded in November. Increases of 6.8% in the index for food purchased from stores and 5.2% in the index for food purchased from restaurants accounted for the latest year-to-year rise in the food index.

#### All-items excluding Food

On a month-to-month basis, the all-items excluding food index increased by 0.3% in December compared to 0.4% in November. The bulk of the increase was attributable to advances of 0.4% in both the housing and the transportation indexes. The clothing index, which declined 0.2%, together with the health and personal care and the tobacco and alcohol indexes, which remained unchanged, provided a moderating effect on the overall upward trend.

Following a 1.6% increase in November, the transportation index rose by 0.4% in December, resulting mainly from a 2.5% increase in the public transportation index. The latter was due principally to a 4.5% rise in air fares (attributable to higher seasonal fares on southern and trans-Atlantic flights) and a 2.4% increase in rail fares.

The housing index posted a 0.4% increase for December, as the shelter component rose by 0.3%. Although new housing prices, rental rates and homeowners' insurance premiums increased, these gains were partially offset by decreases in hotel and motel rates and natural gas prices. A sharp 1.7% increase in new housing prices has continued an upward trend which is now running at a rate of 13.6% on a year-to-year basis. Increases were also recorded for the household operation index (0.2%) and the household furnishings and equipment index (0.7%).

(continued on page 3)

**The Consumer Price Index and Major Components (Not Seasonally Adjusted), Canada**  
(1981 = 100)

	Indexes			Percentage change December 1986 from	
	December 1986	November 1986	December 1985	November 1986	December 1985
<b>All-items</b>	134.9	134.7	129.5	0.1	4.2
Food	129.9	130.1	122.0	-0.2	6.5
All-items excluding food	136.4	136.0	131.6	0.3	3.6
Housing	135.2	134.7	130.7	0.4	3.4
Clothing	120.3	120.5	116.9	-0.2	2.9
Transportation	136.4	135.9	135.0	0.4	1.0
Health and personal care	135.0	135.0	129.3	0.0	4.4
Recreation, reading and education	133.5	133.2	127.0	0.2	5.1
Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages	176.7	176.7	161.4	0.0	9.5
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1981	74.1	74.2	77.2		
All-items Consumer Price Index converted to 1971 = 100	319.6				

Led by decreases of 0.5% in men's clothing and 0.2% in women's clothing but offset somewhat by increases in both girls' and boys' wear, the clothing index posted a decline of 0.2%. A smaller contribution to the upward pressure on the all-items excluding food index came from a gain of 0.2% for the recreation, reading and education index. The increase was largely attributable to a gain of 1.2% in the cost of reading materials.

Over the 12-month period, ending in December 1986, the all-items excluding food index rose by 3.6%, remaining unchanged from the result posted for the previous 12-month period ending in November.

**Goods and Services**

The goods index posted an upward movement of 0.1% in December, a sharp deceleration compared to an increase of 0.8% in November while the services index rose by 0.3%, compared to the 0.1% increase registered in November. Between December 1985 and December 1986 the goods index rose by 3.1%, maintaining a lower rate of increase compared to the 5.4% year-over-year rise recorded by the services index.

**City Highlights**

Between November and December, changes in the all-items indexes for cities for which CPIs are published ranged from a drop of 0.2% in Vancouver to an increase of 0.4% recorded in Halifax and Calgary. The lower than average change in Vancouver resulted from declines in all seven major components led by transportation, food and shelter costs. In Halifax and Calgary, the higher than average increase was due mainly to rising food and clothing prices and a greater than average increase in transportation costs. In Halifax, housing costs also played a major role.

Between December 1985 and December 1986, movements in the all-items indexes for cities ranged between 1.6% for Victoria and 5.3% for Toronto.

**Annual Averages**

The annual average of the all-items index rose 4.1%, a slight rise after a four-year decelerating trend which had taken the increase in the index from a peak of 12.5% in 1981 to a low of 4.0% in 1985. Leading the latest annual increase were the indexes for tobacco products and alcoholic

(continued on page 4)

beverages (11.9%), food (5.0%), recreation, reading and education (4.7%) and health and personal care (4.2%). Three indexes, clothing (2.8%), housing (3.0%) and transportation (3.2%) rose at rates below the national average for all-items.

**Percentage Increase Based on Annual Averages (1986 over 1985)**

● Canada	4.1;
● St. John's	3.0;
● Charlottetown/Summerside	2.0;
● Halifax	3.5;
● Saint John	3.4;
● Quebec City	4.9;
● Montreal	4.9;
● Ottawa	4.0;
● Toronto	4.7;
● Thunder Bay	3.4;
● Winnipeg	4.5;
● Regina	2.1;
● Saskatoon	4.1;
● Edmonton	3.3;
● Calgary	3.5;
● Vancouver	3.3;
● Victoria	1.9.

**Main Contributors to Monthly Changes in the All-items Index, by City**

**St. John's**

Advances in fuel oil charges, air fares and gasoline prices were the main contributing factors in the 0.2% rise in the all-items index. Increases were also noted in the costs of traveller accommodation, household appliances and recreational and home entertainment equipment. Food prices declined overall, as lower prices for pork, turkey, dairy products, fresh fruit and soft drinks more than offset price increases for beef, fish and fresh vegetables. Furniture and clothing prices also declined. Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 2.9%.

**Charlottetown/Summerside**

The all-items index rose 0.2%, mainly as a result of higher shelter and transportation costs. The rise in the shelter index reflected increased charges for fuel oil and higher costs for

rented and owned accommodation, while the rise in the transportation index was mainly due to higher gasoline prices and increased air fares. Partly offsetting these advances were declines in clothing prices and food costs (the latter due mainly to lower prices for turkey, cured meats, fresh fruit and soft drinks). Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 2.7%.

**Halifax**

Advances in gasoline prices, air fares, fuel oil charges and owned accommodation costs were among the main contributors to the 0.4% rise in the all-items index. Food prices were up slightly, reflecting higher prices for beef, cured meats and sugar. Higher prices for personal care supplies were noted as were increased costs relating to recreation and reading expenses. Lower traveller accommodation charges and declines in household furnishing costs exerted a downward impact. Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 3.8%.

**Saint John**

The all-items index was up 0.1%, reflecting advances in the costs of fuel oil, women's wear, gasoline, air fares and personal care supplies. The food index declined overall, largely due to lower prices for pork, poultry, dairy products, bakery products and fresh produce. Declines were also noted in the costs of traveller accommodation and certain recreational equipment. Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 3.0%.

**Quebec City**

The all-items index rose 0.1% with most of the upward impact originating from increased charges for fuel oil and owned accommodation, higher household furnishings and operation costs, increased air fares and advances in prices for home entertainment equipment and reading materials. Food prices declined overall, as lower prices for pork, poultry, fresh produce and soft drinks more than offset price increases for beef, fish, cured meats, dairy products, pasta and restaurant meals. Other notable declines were observed in the costs of traveller (continued on page 5)

accommodation, women's wear, gasoline, non-prescribed medicines and personal care supplies. Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 4.7%.

#### **Montreal**

Among the main contributors to the 0.2% rise in the all-items index were increased charges for owned accommodation, higher fuel oil prices and increased household furnishing and equipment costs. Advances in air fares, parking rates and personal care supply costs were also observed. Overall food prices declined slightly, as lower prices for pork, poultry, fresh produce and soft drinks more than offset higher prices for beef, fish, dairy products, cereal and bakery products, sugar and restaurant meals. Traveller accommodation charges and prices for women's wear declined. Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 5.1%.

#### **Ottawa**

The all-items index rose marginally (0.1%). Among those factors contributing an upward movement were higher charges for rented and owned accommodation, increased prices for fuel oil and advances in the cost of basic telephone services and furniture. Advances in the costs of reading materials, gasoline and air transportation also had a significant upward impact. Declines were noted in the prices of men's and women's wear and in the cost of personal care supplies. The food index fell, reflecting lower prices for poultry, fresh produce and soft drinks. Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 3.7%.

#### **Toronto**

The advance of 0.3% in the all-items index was largely the result of increased charges relating to owned accommodation, higher gasoline prices and increased air fares. Food prices declined marginally, as lower prices for poultry, fresh produce, coffee and soft drinks more than offset price increases for beef, pork, dairy products and bakery products. Clothing prices declined. Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 5.3%.

#### **Thunder Bay**

The all-items index fell 0.1%. Among those factors contributing to the downward movement were declines in gasoline prices and household furnishing and equipment costs as well as decreased charges relating to recreation and household operation. Partly offsetting these declines were advances in air fares, rented and owned accommodation costs, natural gas charges and the costs of reading materials. Prices for cigarettes and women's wear also advanced. The food index remained unchanged overall, as higher prices for beef, dairy products, cereal products, fresh fruit and sugar were completely offset by lower prices for poultry, pork, cured meats, coffee and soft drinks. Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 2.8%.

#### **Winnipeg**

No overall change was recorded in the all-items index. Higher transportation costs exerted a notable upward impact due mainly to increases in parking rates, air fares and fees for drivers' licences. Increased charges for rented and owned accommodation, higher prices for appliances and household textiles, higher recreational and reading costs and advances in the prices of women's wear and personal care supplies also contributed a considerable upward effect. Lower prices for food, fuel oil and furniture and a decline in costs relating to household operation completely offset the advances. The decline in the food index was mainly the result of lower prices for poultry, cereal products, fresh produce, canned vegetables and soft drinks. Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 4.3%.

#### **Regina**

The all-items index rose 0.1%, reflecting higher prices for clothing and alcoholic beverages (particularly for beer purchased from stores), increased air fares and higher recreational costs. Higher prices for reading materials, increased costs for non-prescribed medicines and personal care supplies and advances in

(continued on page 6)

rented accommodation charges, household operating costs and household textile prices also had a considerable upward influence. Furniture and gasoline prices declined as did overall food prices, the latter due mainly to lower prices for pork, poultry, bread, coffee, fresh produce and soft drinks. Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 2.1%.

#### **Saskatoon**

The all-items index rose 0.3% reflecting higher prices for alcoholic beverages (especially beer purchased from stores) and clothing, as well as increased charges for owned accommodation, higher air fares and increased recreational costs. Prices for non-prescribed medicines and personal care supplies also advanced. The food index declined marginally due to lower prices for beef, pork, poultry, fresh produce and soft drinks. Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 3.8%.

#### **Edmonton**

The main factors contributing to the 0.1% rise in the all-items index were higher prices for men's and women's wear, increased recreation and reading costs and higher charges for rented accommodation, natural gas, air transportation and alcoholic beverages (especially beer purchased from stores). Partly offsetting these advances were declines in owned and traveller accommodation charges, lower prices for gasoline and household textiles and equipment, and decreased costs for vehicle insurance and personal care supplies. Food prices also declined, reflecting lower prices for beef, turkey, cured and prepared meats, dairy products, eggs, fresh produce and coffee. Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 3.0%.

#### **Calgary**

The advance of 0.4% in the all-items index mainly reflected higher clothing prices, increased air fares and higher food prices (especially for beef and chicken). Other notable advances were observed in the costs of rented accommodation, beer purchased from stores and household furnishings and equipment. Recreational costs declined as did

charges for natural gas. Between December 1985 and December 1986, the all-items index rose 3.6%.

#### **Vancouver**

The all-items index fell 0.2%, reflecting declines in all seven major component indexes. Among those factors exerting the most significant downward influence were lower vehicle rental charges, decreased natural gas costs and lower prices for women's wear, non-prescribed medicines and personal care supplies. Declines were also noted in charges relating to recreation and owned accommodation, and in prices for cigarettes and alcoholic beverages. Overall food prices declined, due mainly to lower prices for turkey, eggs, fresh produce, coffee and soft drinks. These declines were offset somewhat by higher prices for beef, pork, prepared meats, bakery products and cereal products. Other offsetting factors to the overall decline in the all-items index were advances in rented accommodation charges, air fares and in furniture and household equipment costs. Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 2.9%.

#### **Victoria**

Higher costs for recreational and home entertainment equipment, increased air fares and higher prices for furniture, reading materials, rented accommodation and food explained a large part of the 0.2% rise in the all-items index. The rise in the food component mainly reflected higher prices for chicken, fish, dairy products and bakery products, offset somewhat by lower prices for turkey, eggs, fresh fruit, coffee and soft drinks. Declines were observed in the costs of owned accommodation, gasoline and women's wear. Since December 1985, the all-items index has risen 1.6%.

(see tables on pages 7 and 8)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1922-1940.

Order the December 1986 issue of *The Consumer Price Index* (62-001, \$8/\$80), now available. Contact: Sandra Shadlock (613-990-9606), Prices Division.

**Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres**

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.<sup>1</sup>

	All-items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and personal care	Recreation, reading and education	Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages
<b>St. John's</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	132.8	119.6	133.0	126.6	136.0	133.6	131.5	177.4
% change from Nov. 1986	0.2	-0.7	0.5	-0.1	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.0
% change from Dec. 1985	2.9	6.9	0.3	2.8	1.0	3.9	4.0	6.6
<b>Charlottetown/Summerside</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	128.6	120.0	126.3	115.9	130.1	136.6	137.4	177.6
% change from Nov. 1986	0.2	-0.6	0.5	-0.3	0.9	0.2	0.4	0.1
% change from Dec. 1985	2.7	6.4	-0.7	2.4	0.0	3.2	6.1	13.6
<b>Halifax</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	134.1	120.1	135.6	117.2	137.9	141.2	139.9	180.2
% change from Nov. 1986	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.6	0.6	-0.2
% change from Dec. 1985	3.8	7.8	1.3	-0.4	2.8	4.0	4.6	12.9
<b>Saint John</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	133.9	126.7	137.9	116.5	131.4	131.8	137.7	179.3
% change from Nov. 1986	0.1	-0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.0	-0.1
% change from Dec. 1985	3.0	9.9	1.2	3.0	-4.3	5.2	5.9	8.2
<b>Quebec City</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	137.2	132.3	140.5	121.3	136.1	135.9	126.7	181.4
% change from Nov. 1986	0.1	-0.5	0.4	-0.2	-0.2	-0.6	1.0	0.1
% change from Dec. 1985	4.7	7.2	3.6	3.4	0.1	4.5	5.5	13.0
<b>Montreal</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	137.6	132.9	138.6	120.6	142.1	134.9	130.1	182.8
% change from Nov. 1986	0.2	-0.2	0.4	-0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.0
% change from Dec. 1985	5.1	7.7	3.7	4.0	3.0	5.4	4.8	11.6
<b>Ottawa</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	135.6	126.2	139.7	120.8	138.9	134.1	132.0	172.8
% change from Nov. 1986	0.1	-1.0	0.4	-0.3	0.9	-0.2	0.5	0.0
% change from Dec. 1985	3.7	5.1	2.3	3.7	2.7	3.9	5.6	7.4
<b>Toronto</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	137.9	132.7	139.2	122.8	141.1	138.7	134.7	175.4
% change from Nov. 1986	0.3	-0.1	0.5	-0.9	0.9	-0.1	0.4	-0.2
% change from Dec. 1985	5.3	6.0	5.7	2.6	3.5	5.5	5.2	7.8
<b>Thunder Bay</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	134.0	128.7	134.9	118.8	134.4	137.6	131.5	169.1
% change from Nov. 1986	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.2	-0.5	-0.3	0.0	0.4
% change from Dec. 1985	2.8	4.1	2.0	2.3	-0.2	4.4	4.3	6.9
<b>Winnipeg</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	133.2	123.2	136.1	118.9	132.0	130.8	136.8	184.3
% change from Nov. 1986	0.0	-0.8	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.5	-0.1
% change from Dec. 1985	4.3	6.3	3.3	2.7	1.4	3.7	5.6	12.2

**Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres (continued)**

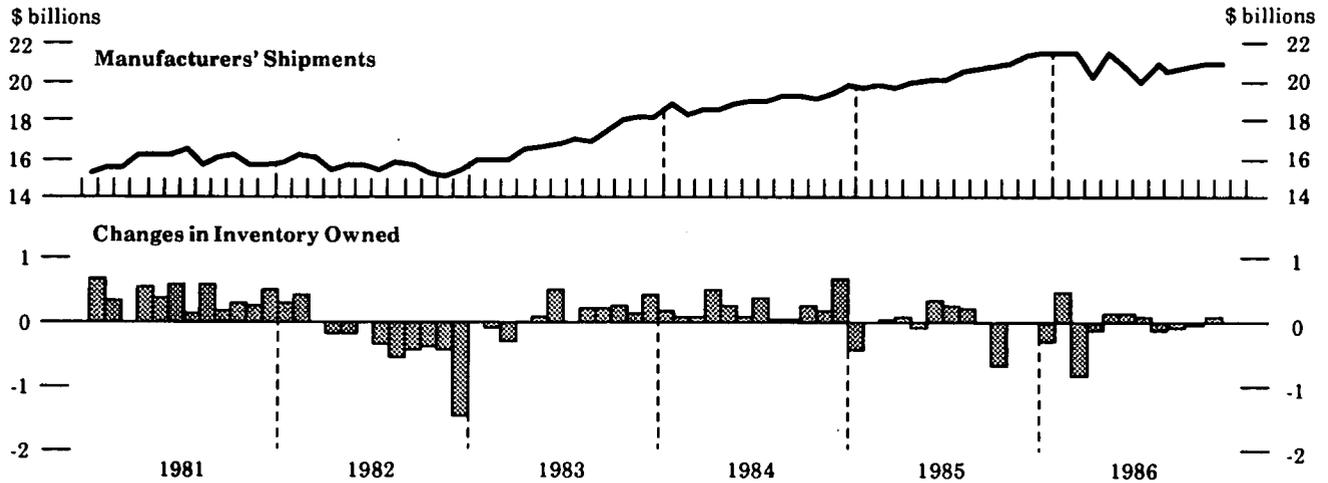
The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.<sup>1</sup>

	All-items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and personal care	Recreation, reading and education	Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages
<b>Regina</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	130.1	120.1	136.1	116.3	120.8	137.5	132.0	172.5
% change from Nov. 1986	0.1	-0.3	-0.1	1.1	-0.4	1.0	0.4	0.6
% change from Dec. 1985	2.1	-0.2	2.5	-0.2	-1.5	5.0	4.7	12.5
<b>Saskatoon</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	131.7	121.0	135.1	120.1	128.0	133.6	134.7	169.0
% change from Nov. 1986	0.3	-0.1	0.1	1.1	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.8
% change from Dec. 1985	3.8	5.4	3.9	-1.5	0.2	3.4	6.0	10.8
<b>Edmonton</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	129.3	129.1	122.9	118.6	133.3	135.7	131.0	178.1
% change from Nov. 1986	0.1	-0.8	-0.1	1.7	0.3	-0.2	0.3	0.3
% change from Dec. 1985	3.0	5.1	1.8	3.8	0.2	3.7	4.6	8.9
<b>Calgary</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	129.6	129.8	123.1	114.8	136.3	139.8	131.1	174.7
% change from Nov. 1986	0.4	0.5	0.1	1.8	0.6	0.1	-0.2	0.3
% change from Dec. 1985	3.6	7.0	2.3	3.2	0.4	3.2	4.3	9.7
<b>Vancouver</b>								
Dec. 1986 index	130.4	128.6	124.7	121.2	133.4	130.6	140.9	166.0
% change from Nov. 1986	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-0.7	-0.4	-0.1	-0.3
% change from Dec. 1985	2.9	5.8	1.3	2.7	-1.4	3.2	6.1	10.0
<b>Victoria<sup>2</sup></b>								
Dec. 1986 index	104.6	106.9	100.4	104.8	102.0	105.2	109.4	121.4
% change from Nov. 1986	0.2	0.2	0.2	-0.2	-0.4	0.5	0.8	-0.1
% change from Dec. 1985	1.6	4.5	-0.6	3.8	-4.4	2.3	5.7	9.1

<sup>1</sup> For inter-city indexes of retail price differentials, refer to Table 24 of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes (62-010, \$15/\$60).

<sup>2</sup> December 1984 = 100.

**Manufacturers' Shipments and Changes in Inventory Owned, 1981-1986**  
(Seasonally adjusted)



**Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries**  
November 1986

**Highlights**

- In November, total manufacturing shipments remained virtually unchanged, further extending the fluctuating but generally downward trend observed since the beginning of 1986. Preliminary estimates indicate that the seasonally adjusted value of shipments for all Canadian manufacturing industries remained virtually unchanged in November at \$20,906 million, following increases of 2.5% in October and 0.6% in September.
- The seasonally adjusted value of new orders received in November decreased 0.6% to \$20,770 million, following a 2.9% increase in October. New orders are now 4.4% below the February 1986 peak.
- The seasonally adjusted unfilled orders backlog decreased 0.6% in November to \$23,889 million. Except for October, when the backlog remained virtually unchanged, unfilled orders have been decreasing since June 1986 and are now at their lowest level since April 1985.
- Seasonally adjusted inventories owned by manufacturers at the end of November totalled \$34,089 million. Inventories have remained fairly stable since March 1986.
- The ratio of seasonally adjusted total inventory owned to seasonally adjusted shipments remained at 1.63:1 in November, thus extending the fluctuating trend in this ratio which has ranged from 1.60 to 1.70 since February 1986.

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- Not adjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in November 1986 were estimated at \$20,715 million, 3.0% lower than the November 1985 level. Cumulative shipments for the first 11 months of 1986 have been estimated at \$229,514 million, 2.3% above the value for the corresponding period in 1985.

Order the November 1986 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, \$15/\$150), available in three to four weeks time. Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available on request. Contact: the Shipments, Inventories and Orders Section (613-990-9832), Industry Division.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9580.

### Estimated Value of Shipments, Inventories and Orders in all Manufacturing Industries

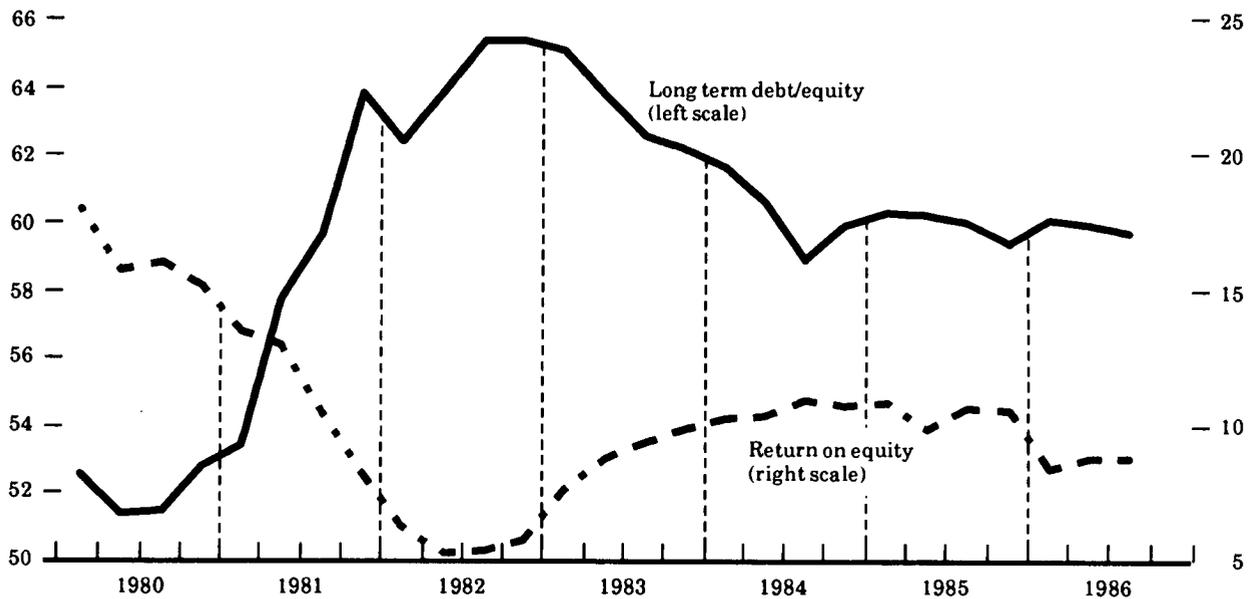
(Based on 1982 Census of Manufactures Benchmarks)  
(millions of dollars)

	November 1986 <sup>p</sup>	October 1986 <sup>r</sup>	September 1986	November 1985
	Not adjusted for Seasonal Variation			
Shipments - Total	20,714.6	21,979.0	21,341.6	21,361.4
New Orders - Total	20,495.1	21,916.6	21,268.8	21,175.5
Unfilled Orders - Total	23,824.3	24,043.8	24,106.2	23,995.8
Inventory Owned - Total	33,855.3	33,832.5	33,812.6	34,406.1
	Adjusted for Seasonal Variation			
Shipments - Total	20,905.6	20,890.5	20,386.7	21,275.0
New Orders - Total	20,770.0	20,891.7	20,307.5	21,149.3
Unfilled Orders - Total	23,889.1	24,024.6	24,023.4	24,014.7
Inventory Owned - Total	34,089.4	34,042.2	34,068.2	34,666.4
Ratio of Total Inventories Owned to Shipments	1.63	1.63	1.67	1.63

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

**Industrial Corporations - Financial Ratios**



**Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics**

Third Quarter 1986

**Profits Summary**

Final results for the third quarter of 1986 confirm that, on a seasonally adjusted basis, pre-tax profits remained at about the same level as the first and second quarters, but were some 13% below the average level recorded in 1985.

There were notable offsetting changes in the latest quarter:

- Unusually large foreign dividend receipts were responsible for two major increases in pre-tax profits - \$492 million in distilleries and \$147 million in printing and publishing.
- The largest decreases in pre-tax profits were registered by the transportation equipment industry (-\$232 million) and by the mineral fuels industry (-\$183 million).

**Balance Sheet Data Summary**

Corporations with Assets Exceeding \$10 million  
(unadjusted for seasonality)

The most notable change in balance sheet data in the third quarter was a \$3.0 billion increase in share capital. About two-thirds of the increase was accounted for by the mineral fuels, pipelines, paper and allied products, real estate developers, other services and tobacco industries. During the last three years only the share capital increase of \$3.4 billion in the first quarter of 1986 was larger.

In addition to their contribution to the share capital increase, the same six industries accounted for more than half of an increase in long-term investments. A \$2.5 billion advance in long-term investments in the current quarter and a \$4.0 billion advance in the second quarter both exceeded the quarterly average of \$1.6 billion over the last five years.

(continued on page 12)

Bond debt rose \$1.4 billion from the second quarter to the third quarter, higher than the \$0.7 billion average quarterly increase over the past five years. A substantial increase of \$2.4 billion was recorded for the first quarter of 1986.

#### **Balance Sheet Ratios**

**Return on equity:** profitability, as measured by the rate of return on shareholders' equity, remained at 8.8% in the third quarter, unchanged from the previous quarter but up from 8.4% in the first quarter. This compares with the 10.6% average rate of return registered during the 1984-1985 period. Over the last 10 years the rate of return on shareholders' equity reached a low of 5.3% during the recession in 1982, and a high of 18.6% in the last quarter of 1979.

**Long-term debt to equity:** liquidity, as measured by the ratio of long-term debt to shareholders' equity, fell marginally to 59.7% from 59.9% in the second quarter and 60.1% in the first quarter of 1986. This ratio has remained virtually constant since the fourth

quarter of 1984, despite a considerable increase in the relative debt load for the petroleum-related industries. Excluding these industries the ratio for the remaining industries has gradually declined from 67.2% in late 1983, to 58.0% in the third quarter of 1986.

#### **Coverage**

These revised data cover all non-government owned corporations in Canada except those in the agriculture, fishing and finance industries. Income statement information for corporations with assets exceeding \$10 million are now available.

(see table on page 13)

More detailed statistics for the 47 industry groups are available on CANSIM: matrices 4780-4921 and 4928-4942.

Order the third quarter issue of *Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics* (61-003, \$50/\$200), available the third week of February. Contact: Gail Campbell or Bill Potter (613-990-9843), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.

**Industrial Corporations: Selected Financial Statistics**  
(Corporations with assets exceeding \$10 million)

	3rd Q 1986	2nd Q 1986	1st Q 1986	4th Q 1985
	(\$ billions)			
Current Assets	140.0	139.5	139.1	140.2
Short-term investments	20.2	19.5	20.0	19.6
Accounts Receivable	55.0	55.1	55.1	56.0
Inventories	53.6	54.3	53.7	54.3
Current Liabilities	99.7	101.5	100.2	103.1
Bank Loans	18.6	19.8	19.9	19.3
Accounts Payable	54.7	55.7	56.4	60.7
Working Capital (Current Assets minus current liabilities)	40.3	38.0	38.9	37.1
Long-term Investments	79.6	77.1	73.1	71.5
Fixed Assets	220.9	219.6	217.8	216.0
Total Assets	452.8	448.2	441.8	439.4
Long-term Debt	109.0	107.4	106.3	104.6
Bank Loans	32.6	33.3	32.6	32.5
Bonds	42.8	41.4	40.6	38.2
Shareholders equity	182.7	179.2	176.9	176.0
Share Capital	80.7	77.6	76.1	72.7
Retained Earnings	90.3	89.9	89.0	91.5
Capital Expenditures	7.9	8.1	7.9	10.2
Income Statement (Seasonally Adjusted)				
Sales	106.8	108.3	108.8	111.1
Pre-tax Profits	6.6	6.6	6.7	8.6
After-tax profits	4.0	3.9	3.7	4.7
Ratios				
Return on Equity (After-tax Profits/Equity)%	8.8%	8.8%	8.4%	10.6%
Long-term Debt/Equity %	59.7%	59.9%	60.1%	59.4%
Selected Income Statement Data (Seasonally Adjusted) All Asset Sizes				
	(\$ billions)			
Sales	185.0	185.6	184.4	185.7
Pre-tax profits	9.1	9.0	9.0	10.9
After-tax profits	5.8	5.6	5.3	6.3

**Sales of Natural Gas**  
November 1986

During November 1986, sales of natural gas by main distributors amounted to 4 559 788 thousand cubic metres, a 7.6% decrease from the level recorded the previous year.

On the basis of rate structure information, sales were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from November 1985 in brackets: residential sales, 1 341 036 thousand cubic metres (-1.8); commercial sales, 1 101 175 thousand cubic metres (-5.8) and industrial sales, 2 117 577 thousand cubic metres (-11.7).

Year-to-date figures for the first 11 months of 1986 show sales of natural gas amounted to 43 022 991<sup>r</sup> (revised figures) thousand cubic

metres, a 2.8% decrease from the level recorded during the same period of 1985.

On the basis of rate structure information, sales were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from January to November 1985 in brackets: residential sales, 10 977 877 thousand cubic metres (-0.1); commercial sales, 8 972 597 thousand cubic metres (-2.2) and industrial sales, 23 072 517<sup>r</sup> thousand cubic metres (-4.3).

Order the November 1986 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$10/\$100), available the third week of February. Contact: Gary Smalldridge (613-991-3567), Energy Section, Industry Division.

**Natural Gas Sales**  
November 1986

	Rate structure				Total
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct	
	(thousands of cubic metres)				
New Brunswick	14	49	-	-	63
Quebec	59 401	107 759	265 177	-	432 337
Ontario	519 577	398 585	820 421	44 725	1 783 308
Manitoba	66 469	64 115	41 303	-	171 887
Saskatchewan	117 706	90 276	98 013	-	305 995
Alberta	435 956	312 740	678 893	-	1 427 589
British Columbia	141 913	127 651	169 045	-	438 609
<b>Canada - November 1886</b>	<b>1 341 036</b>	<b>1 101 175</b>	<b>2 072 852</b>	<b>44 725</b>	<b>4 559 788</b>
Canada - November 1985	1 365 693	1 169 531	2 397 879	-	4 933 103
% change	-1.8	-5.8	-11.7	-	-7.6
<b>Year-to-date</b>					
<b>Canada 1986</b>	<b>10 977 877</b>	<b>8 972 597</b>	<b>22 609 822</b>	<b>462 695<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>43 022 991<sup>r</sup></b>
Year-to-date					
Canada 1985	10 986 643	9 177 721	24 109 320	-	44 273 684
% change	-0.1	-2.2	-4.3	-	-2.8

Note: Revised figures will be available in the "Gas Utilities" publication (55-002) as well as on CANSIM.  
- Nil or zero.

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## Data Availability Announcements

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### Tobacco Products

December 1986

Canadian tobacco product firms produced 3,622,128,000 cigarettes in December 1986, a 8.0% decrease from the 3,935,705,000 cigarettes manufactured during the same period in 1985. Production for January to December 1986 totalled 55,632,568,000 cigarettes, down from 63,485,718,000 cigarettes for the corresponding period in 1985.

Domestic sales in December 1986 amounted to 6,622,766,000 cigarettes, an increase of 9.0% over the December 1985 amount of 6,077,955,000 cigarettes. Year-to-date sales in 1986 totalled 55,436,969,000 cigarettes, down 6.0% from the 1985 cumulative amount of 58,953,247,000 cigarettes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.

Order the December 1986 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products* (32-022, \$4/\$40), to be released the week of February 2, 1987. Contact: Brian Preston (613-991-3511), Industry Division.

### Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard

November 1986

Canadian firms produced 105 814 cubic metres of waferboard in November 1986, a decrease of 13.6% from the 122 496 cubic metres produced a year earlier. Particleboard production totalled 92 302 cubic metres in November 1986, down 6.1% from 98 318 cubic metres the previous year. Production of hardboard for November 1986 is confidential, while hardboard production for November 1985 was 4 746 thousand square metres, basis 3.175 mm (51,089 thousand square feet, basis 1/8-inch).

Production of waferboard during January to November 1986 totalled 1 251 348 cubic metres, up 1.2% from the 1 236 467 cubic metres produced during the same period a year earlier. Particleboard production was 1 041 410 cubic metres, up 8.0% from 964 467<sup>r</sup> (revised figures) cubic metres in January to November

1985. Production of hardboard for January to November 1986 is confidential; production for January to November 1985 was 45 400 thousand square metres, basis 3.175 mm (488,685 thousand square feet, basis 1/8-inch).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 122 (series 8 and 34).

Order the November 1986 issue of *Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard* (36-003, \$4/\$40), to be released the week of January 26. Contact: Katherine Blais (613-991-3531), Industry Division.

### Exports by Commodities

November 1986

Commodity-country export trade statistics for November 1986 are now available on microfiche, computer printouts or magnetic tapes in advance of the monthly publication.

Available on CANSIM (for selected information): matrices 3686-3713 and 3719.

Order the November 1986 issue of *Exports by Commodities* (65-004, \$50/\$500), available the last week of January 1987. Contact: G. L. Blaney (613-990-9647), International Trade Division.

### Per Capita Food Consumption in Canada

1985 and 1984

Updates to the per capita consumption of apples (fresh and juice) and unspecified fruit juice, as well as corresponding fruit totals are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 00190104-00190108 and 00190112.

Order *Apparent Per Capita Food Consumption in Canada, Part II, 1985* (32-230, \$25), available in early February. Contact: L. Magahay (613-990-8727), Agriculture/Natural Resources Division.



## Publications Released

**Production, Sales and  
Stocks of Major Appliances,**

November 1986

**Catalogue number 43-010**

(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

**Cement, November 1986**

**Catalogue number 44-001**

(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

**Production and Shipments of  
Blow-moulded Plastic Bottles,**

Quarter Ended September 30, 1986

**Catalogue number 47-006**

(Canada: \$5/\$20; Other Countries: \$6/\$24)

**Imports by Commodities,**

October 1986

**Catalogue number 65-007**

(Canada: \$50/\$500; Other Countries: \$60/\$600)

*Statistics Canada publications may be purchased by mail order from Publication Sales, Room 1710, Main Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

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