

The Daily

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Construction Building Material Price Index: Residential, August 1987

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- The index increased 1.0% from July and 4.1% from August 1986.

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- Prices rose 0.6% from the previous month and 3.6% from a year earlier.

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Major Releases

Construction Building Material Price Index: Residential

August 1987

The price index for residential construction building materials (1981 = 100) rose to 135.7 in August, up 1.0% from the revised figure for the previous month and a rise of 4.1% from a year earlier.

Between July and August, significant price increases were recorded for concrete bricks and blocks, and plywood.

Between August 1986 and August 1987, prices for structural materials rose 5.6%, due principally to increases for concrete bricks and

blocks, and roof trusses. There was a 4.2% increase in prices for mechanical materials, primarily copper pipe and fittings. Architectural materials increased 3.7%, due mainly to increases for moulding and clay bricks and blocks. Electrical materials were up 2.5% due to an increase for building wires and cables.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 423.

Order the third quarter 1987 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), available in December. Contact the Information Service (613-951-9607), Prices Division.

Construction Building Material Price Indexes: Residential

August 1987
(1981 = 100)

	Aug. '87	July '87	Aug. '86	% Change	
				Aug. '87/ July '87	Aug. '87 Aug. '86
Total materials	135.7	134.3	130.3	1.0	4.1
Architectural materials	134.9	134.0	130.1	0.7	3.7
Structural materials	142.5	139.0	135.0	2.5	5.6
Mechanical materials	133.4	133.0	128.0	0.3	4.2
Electrical materials	121.1	120.9	118.2	0.2	2.5

Construction Building Material Price Index: Non-residential August 1987

The price index for non-residential construction building materials (1981 = 100) rose to 131.1 in August, up 0.6% from the revised figure for the previous month and up 3.6% from August 1986.

Between July and August 1987, there were sharp increases in prices for concrete bricks and blocks and all types of plywood.

On a year-to-year basis, prices for mechanical materials rose 4.0% due mainly to increases for elevator and escalator equipment.

Prices for structural materials increased by 3.8%, attributable to higher prices for concrete bricks and blocks. Architectural materials were up 3.7% due primarily to increases for metal roofing and siding and foamed and expanded plastics. Electrical materials rose 2.6%.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 423.

Order the third quarter 1987 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), available in December. Contact the Information Service (613-951-9607), Prices Division.

Construction Building Material Price Indexes: Non-residential August 1987 (1981 = 100)

	Aug. '87	July '87	Aug. '86	% Change	
				Aug. '87/ July '87	Aug. '87/ Aug. '86
Total materials	131.1	130.3	126.5	0.6	3.6
Architectural materials	133.1	132.4	128.3	0.5	3.7
Structural materials	130.6	128.6	125.8	1.6	3.8
Mechanical materials	133.2	133.1	128.1	0.1	4.0
Electrical materials	122.5	122.3	119.4	0.2	2.6

Data Availability Announcements

Housing Starts

August 1987

Highlights

Total (all areas)

- Seasonally adjusted at annual rates, a total of 282,000 dwelling units were started in August, up 6.8% from 264,000 in July.
- This increase was totally attributable to the multiple housing sector which continued to reach record levels.

Urban Centres (10,000 population and over)

- Compared to July (239,000 units), August housing starts increased 7.5% to 257,000.
- On a regional basis, all regions except the Prairies reported an increase in housing starts. Larger than average increases were observed in British Columbia (+21.9%) and Quebec (+12.3%).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 25, 29, 4091 and 4092.

Order the August 1987 issue of *Housing Starts and Completions* (64-002, \$15/\$150), scheduled for release the second week of November. Contact P. Pichette (613-951-9689), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

School Board Financial Statistics

1984

Total school board expenditures grew 5.4% in 1984, to reach \$17.7 billion. This rise marks the smallest percentage increase in over 10 years. Teachers salaries, which make up the majority of expenses, followed a similar trend while showing an even smaller increase (4.7%) in 1984. By comparison, the Consumer Price Index increased 4.4% in 1984.

School board revenues from local taxation increased 7.3% in 1984, while provincial government contributions rose 3.9%.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 00590304.

Order the *Education Statistics Bulletin*, Vol. 9, No. 8, *Financial Statistics of School Boards*, 1980 to 1984 (81-002, \$4/\$40), now available.

Contact Louis Pierre (613-951-1507), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period Ending September 21, 1987

Highlights

- Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the week totalled 5.2 million tonnes, an increase of 18.4% from the previous year.
- Piggyback traffic increased 9.5% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded increased 12.3%.
- The tonnage of revenue freight loaded to date this year is 2.4% more than that loaded in the previous year.

Note: Piggyback traffic includes trailers and containers on flat cars. The 1986 figures and the 1987 year-to-date figures have been revised. Piggyback traffic numbers are included in total carload traffic.

Contact Angus McLean (613-951-2484), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division.

	Seven-day period ending September 21, 1987	Year-to-date
Carload traffic		
Tonnes	5 165 312	174 631 553
% change from previous year	18.4	2.4
Cars	76,830	2,582,515
% change from previous year	16.1	0.8
Piggyback traffic		
Tonnes	270 544	8 995 688
% change from previous year	9.5	3.8
Cars	9,975	324,099
% change from previous year	12.3	3.2

Provincial Government Finance 1987-88

A gross general revenue and expenditure forecast for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1988 is available from CANSIM for the following provinces: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Ontario and Saskatchewan.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2751-2753, 2757 and 2759.

Contact G. Huneault (613-951-1812), Public Institutions Division.

Production of Eggs

August 1987

Canadian egg production increased to 41.7 million dozen in August 1987, up 0.2% from 41.6 million a year earlier. The average number of layers increased by 0.3% from August 1986, while the number of eggs per 100 layers decreased to 2,137 from 2,138.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1145, 1146 and 5689-5691.

Order the August 1987 issue of *Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry* (23-003, \$10/\$100), scheduled for release on October 30. Contact Peter Beerstecher (613-951-2505), Agriculture Division.



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Publications Released

Imports by Commodity, July 1987.
Catalogue number 65-007
(Canada: \$50/\$500; Other Countries:
\$60/\$600).

Education Statistics Bulletin, Vol. 9, No. 8,
Financial Statistics of School Boards,
1980 to 1984. Catalogue number 81-002
(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

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