

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, November 12, 1987

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Major Releases

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, September 1987

2

- Following reconciliation of the statistics, the international merchandise trade surplus with the United States totalled \$12.6 billion for the first nine months of 1987, \$1.0 billion less than for the same period in 1986.

Help-wanted Index, October 1987

9

- The index increased for the sixth consecutive month, advancing to 136 from 133 in September.

Data Availability Announcements

Housing Starts, September 1987 11

Telecommunications Statistics, Third Quarter 1987 11

Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins, September 1987 11

Production of Eggs, September 1987 12

Export and Import Price Indexes, September 1987 12

Publications Released 13

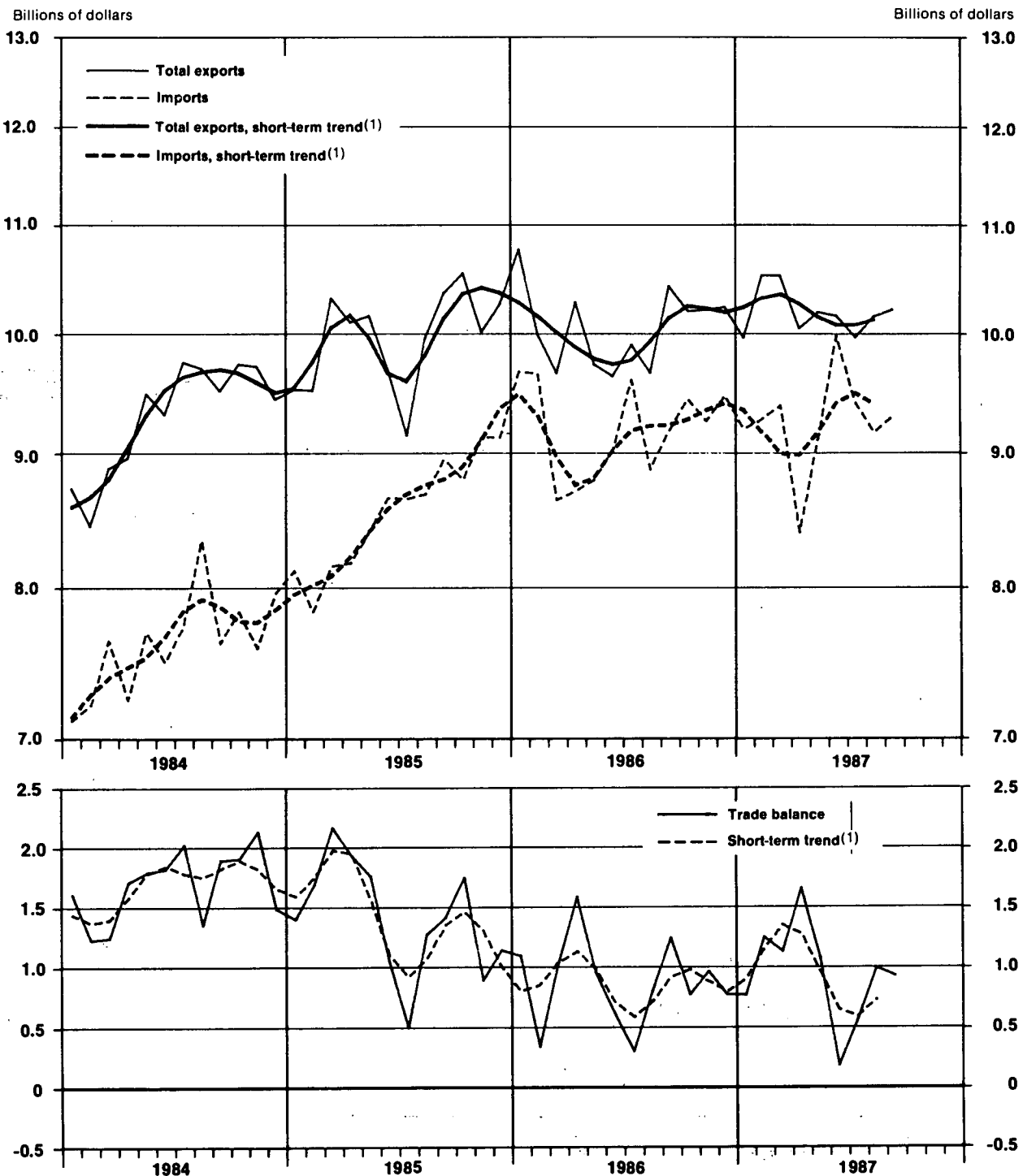


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Major Releases

Imports, Total Exports, and Trade Balance, All Countries, Seasonally Adjusted Balance of Payments Basis



(1) The short-term trend gives a clearer picture of the direction and rate of change of trade by averaging the substantial monthly fluctuations which frequently occur in trade. The trend for the last month is not shown in the charts above since it frequently changes significantly with the addition of succeeding months of data.

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis

September 1987

Month-to-month Overview

On a balance of payments basis and adjusted for seasonal fluctuations, Canada's international trade surplus in September was \$920 million, a slight drop of \$67 million from the August level. The cumulative balance for the first nine months of 1987 was \$8.5 billion, a gain of \$587 million from the balance recorded for the same period in 1986.

Exports increased by \$63 million, rising to \$10.2 billion in September. Exports in the first nine months of 1987 totalled \$91.6 billion, an increase of \$1.6 billion from the level reported for the same period in 1986.

Imports rose by \$130 million in September from the previous month's level, rising to \$9.3 billion. This increase in total imports is mainly attributable to a rise in imports from the United States. Imports from all countries in the first nine months totalled \$83.1 billion, a gain of \$1.0 billion from the January-September 1986 level.

Quarter-to-quarter Overview

Exports fell by \$52 million in the third quarter from the level in the previous quarter, dropping to \$30.3 billion. The largest decreases were noted for exports of wheat, down by \$296 million and for motor vehicle parts, down \$260 million. The largest increases recorded were for exports of trucks (+\$137 million) and lumber (+\$131 million).

Imports in the third quarter totalled \$27.8 billion, or \$373 million more than in the previous quarter. The largest quarterly increases recorded were for imports of crude petroleum (+\$300 million) and inedible fabricated materials (+\$282 million). The largest decrease noted was that for imports of automotive products (-\$984 million).

Canada posted a surplus of \$319 million in international trade in automotive products as a whole in the third quarter, compared with a deficit of \$370 million in the second quarter. The second quarter deficit was the first recorded in that sector since the fourth quarter of 1981.

Short-term Trend (excludes latest month)

Exports

After posting decreases in April, May and June, the short-term trend was up in July and August, with a rate of increase of 0.5% in August. The largest increases were those for exports of lumber, trucks and industrial machinery. This was the sixth straight increase in the short-term trend for exports of industrial machinery. The downward trend for exports of passenger autos that had been recorded since December 1986 reversed itself in August, with an increase of 1.0%. However, these increases were partly offset by decreases in the trends for exports of crude materials (the first drop in seven months) and motor vehicle parts.

Imports

The short-term trend for imports dropped in August by 1.0%, a turnaround from the successive increases noted from May to July. This decrease in the total was attributable mainly to the trend for imports of passenger autos, which was down for the third straight month. The trend for imports of aircraft was also down, with a decrease of 4.8%. There was a downward trend for most of the commodity groups, but the trend for imports of crude petroleum was up for a fourth straight month, with a rise of 7.2% in August, following one of 16.3% in July.

(continued on page 4)

Commodity Highlights

Exports

Exports rose by 0.6% between August and September. The main increases were those for exports of passenger autos (+\$249 million), lumber (+\$105 million) and newsprint paper (+\$63 million). The value of exports of passenger autos rose to \$1.1 billion, the highest level in six months. The largest decreases were those for exports of trucks (-\$153 million), copper ores (-\$41 million) and television, telecommunication and related equipment (-\$40 million). Despite the pronounced decrease in September, exports of trucks totalled \$502 million, a level only slightly lower than the average of \$517 million for the first nine months of 1987.

Although down by \$11 million in September from the August level, Canadian wheat exports totalled \$2.3 billion in the first nine months of 1987, \$281 million more than the value exported during the same period in 1986.

Because of a fairly significant error in the customs declarations of a Canadian manufacturing concern, important changes (+\$200 million) had to be made in the August 1987 statistics for exports of automotive products.

Imports

Imports rose by 1.4% in September, a turnaround from the decreases of 5.8% in July and 2.5% in August. The largest increases were those for imports of aircraft (+\$152 million), motor vehicle parts (+\$89 million) and other industrial machinery (+\$65 million).

Imports of motor vehicle parts, mainly from the United States, totalled \$11.9 billion in the first three quarters of 1987, giving that commodity group by far the highest figure among the 62 groups observed for imports. The largest decreases in September were those for imports of passenger autos (-\$245 million) and crude petroleum (-\$65 million).

Trading Partner Highlights

Exports

In September, there was a reversal of the downward movement recorded for exports to the United States from June to August, with a rise of \$358 million to a level of \$8.0 billion. Exports to "other OECD countries" and Japan also posted increases (+\$32 million and +\$7 million respectively). Exports to other partners fell from the levels recorded the month before, with decreases of \$215 million for "other countries", \$77 million for "other EEC countries" and \$42 million for the United Kingdom.

Imports

Imports from the United States increased by \$160 million in September, rising to \$6.3 billion. Imports from "other EEC countries" and "other OECD countries" increased by \$65 million and \$53 million respectively, while declines were noted for imports from "other countries" (-\$73 million), the United Kingdom (-\$53 million) and Japan (-\$21 million).

(continued on page 5)

Canada/United States Reconciliation
Customs Basis Statistics, Not Seasonally
Adjusted¹

Following reconciliation of the statistics for international trade between Canada and the United States, the cumulative value of Canadian exports to the United States on a customs basis was \$70.1 billion in the first nine months of 1987, while imports totalled \$57.5 billion. There was a surplus of \$12.6 billion (in Canadian dollars) for Canada in the reconciled balance of international trade between the two countries, as recognized by Statistics Canada and the United States Bureau of the Census. This represented a decrease of \$1.0 billion from the value recorded for the surplus during the same period in 1986.

(see tables on pages 6 to 8)

¹ Since the customs-basis trade statistics represent only the value of goods moving across Canada's borders, while the balance of payments basis statistics are compiled using the principle of change in ownership of goods between residents and non-residents, there can be some differences in the figures. The balance of payments basis statistics given earlier and presented in the tables that follow reflect adjustments for reconciliation of the custom-basis data for trade between Canada and the United States, as well as all other adjustments required to make these data compatible with the national accounts concepts.

Reconciled quarterly year-to-date merchandise trade statistics will henceforth be carried as a supplement to the second table. It is important to note that the reconciled figures differ from the monthly totals on a customs basis owing to adjustments for rates of non-response, transportation charges, definitions of "trade" and valuation.

The reconciled balance is the single best measure of merchandise trade on a customs basis between Canada and the United States, agreed to by both Statistics Canada and the United States Bureau of the Census.

Available on CANSIM: 3651-3678, 3685-3713, 3718 and 3719.

Order the September 1987 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$15/\$150), available the fourth week of November. Contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), Trade Information Unit, Jean-Pierre Simard (613-951-9787) (for analysis information), or John Butterill (613-951-4804) (for price-index information), Trade Measures and Analysis Section, International Trade Division.

For summary information, available the day of release, order the *Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade* (65-001P, \$5/\$50).

Merchandise Trade of Canada

September 1987

Balance of Payments Basis

						Period-to-period change ²		
	Total exports ¹	Imports	Total exports ¹	Imports	Balance	Total exports ¹	Imports	Balance
	raw	raw	S.A. ³	S.A. ³	S.A. ³	S.A. ³	S.A. ³	S.A. ³
	\$ millions					%	%	\$ millions
1981	84,432	77,140	84,432	77,140	7,292	10.1	13.6	-1,486
1982	84,393	66,739	84,393	66,739	17,654	0.0	-13.5	10,362
1983	90,556	73,098	90,556	73,098	17,457	7.3	9.5	-197
1984	111,730	91,493	111,730	91,493	20,237	23.4	25.2	2,780
1985	119,566	102,641	119,566	102,641	16,926	7.0	12.2	-3,312
1986	120,593	110,205	120,593	110,205	10,388	0.9	7.4	-6,538
1985								
First quarter	28,728	23,676	29,355	24,106	5,249	1.6	3.1	-275
Second quarter	31,409	27,180	29,948	25,226	4,721	2.0	4.6	-528
Third quarter	27,982	25,352	29,459	26,274	3,185	-1.6	4.2	-1,537
Fourth quarter	31,447	26,433	30,805	27,034	3,770	4.6	2.9	586
1986								
First quarter	29,554	27,031	30,386	27,943	2,443	-1.4	3.4	-1,328
Second quarter	31,182	28,936	29,629	26,495	3,134	-2.5	-5.2	692
Third quarter	28,558	26,769	29,956	27,630	2,326	1.1	4.3	-809
Fourth quarter	31,299	27,469	30,622	28,137	2,486	2.2	1.8	160
1987								
First Quarter	30,197	27,395	30,956	27,828	3,128	1.1	-1.1	642
Second Quarter	31,717	29,377	30,350	27,457	2,893	-2.0	-1.3	-235
Third Quarter	29,171	27,027	30,298	27,830	2,468	-0.2	1.4	-425
1986								
January	10,192	9,079	10,752	9,665	1,087	4.8	5.9	-49
February	9,504	9,385	9,980	9,647	333	-7.2	-0.2	-754
March	9,858	8,566	9,654	8,632	1,022	-3.3	-10.5	689
April	10,678	10,098	10,276	8,698	1,578	6.4	0.8	556
May	10,246	9,374	9,728	8,783	945	-5.3	1.0	-634
June	10,257	9,463	9,626	9,014	612	-1.1	2.6	-333
July	9,311	9,672	9,889	9,594	295	2.7	6.4	-316
August	8,610	8,221	9,653	8,859	794	-2.4	-7.7	498
September	10,637	8,877	10,414	9,177	1,237	7.9	3.6	442
October	10,790	9,763	10,195	9,430	765	-2.1	2.8	-471
November	10,498	9,136	10,204	9,249	955	0.1	-1.9	190
December	10,011	8,569	10,224	9,458	766	0.2	2.3	-188
1987								
January	9,321	8,501	9,947	9,186	761	-2.7	-2.9	-6
February	10,054	9,028	10,507	9,265	1,242	5.6	0.9	481
March	10,823	9,866	10,502	9,376	1,126	0.0	1.2	-116
April	10,336	9,322	10,031	8,382	1,649	-4.5	-10.6	523
May	10,569	9,451	10,177	9,107	1,070	1.5	8.6	-578
June	10,812	10,604	10,143	9,968	175	-0.3	9.5	-895
July	9,441	9,443	9,953	9,392	561	-1.9	-5.8	387
August	9,195	8,502	10,141	9,154	987	1.9	-2.5	425
September	10,534	9,083	10,204	9,284	920	0.6	1.4	-67
Year-to-date								
1986	89,294	82,736	89,971	82,068	7,902	1.4	8.5	-5,253
1987	91,084	83,799	91,604	83,114	8,489	1.8	1.3	587

¹ Total Exports = Domestic Exports + Re-exports.

² Year-to-year, quarter-to-quarter, month-to-month.

³ Seasonally Adjusted.

Note: Due to rounding monthly data may not add up to quarterly data and quarterly data may not add up to annual data.

Merchandise Trade by Principal Trading Areas

September 1987

Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis

	Period-to-period change						Year-to-date	Change over previous year	
	Aug.	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.		% \$ millions	\$ millions
	\$ millions		%	%	\$ millions		\$ millions		
Total exports to:									
United States	7,667.5	8,025.2	-0.3	4.7	-22.6	357.7	70,141.5	-0.1	-65.7
Japan	578.7	585.9	-2.3	1.3	-13.4	7.3	4,731.5	5.3	237.2
United Kingdom	255.0	212.8	0.9	-16.5	2.4	-42.2	2,296.8	16.9	331.5
Other EEC Countries	528.2	451.3	13.5	-14.6	63.0	-77.0	4,629.8	18.8	731.2
Other OECD Countries*	148.4	180.8	-26.4	21.8	-53.1	32.4	1,809.6	12.8	205.5
Other Countries	962.9	747.9	28.1	-22.3	211.2	-215.0	7,994.7	2.5	193.2
Total	10,140.7	10,204.0	1.9	0.6	187.4	63.3	91,603.9	1.8	1,633.0
Imports from:									
United States	6,165.0	6,325.0	-0.5	2.6	-31.0	159.9	56,674.8	-0.3	-167.3
Japan	565.7	544.2	-3.5	-3.8	-20.3	-21.4	5,411.5	-3.7	-209.0
United Kingdom*	416.8	363.5	3.6	-12.8	14.5	-53.3	3,362.6	28.7	749.5
Other EEC Countries	702.5	767.1	-6.7	9.2	-50.8	64.6	6,721.5	1.1	70.8
Other OECD Countries*	213.6	266.8	-33.5	24.9	-107.8	53.2	2,345.9	14.1	290.3
Other Countries*	1,090.4	1,017.7	-3.7	-6.7	-42.1	-72.8	8,598.0	3.8	311.7
Total	9,154.0	9,284.2	-2.5	1.4	-237.6	130.2	83,114.4	1.3	1,046.0
Balance with:									
United States	1,502.4	1,700.2			8.3	197.8	13,466.7		101.6
Japan	13.0	41.7			6.9	28.7	-680.1		446.2
United Kingdom	-161.8	-150.7			-12.1	11.1	-1,065.8		-417.9
Other EEC Countries	-174.2	-315.8			113.8	-141.6	-2,091.8		660.4
Other OECD Countries*	-65.2	-86.0			54.7	-20.8	-536.2		-84.8
Other Countries	-127.5	-269.7			253.3	-142.2	-603.4		-118.5
Total	986.7	919.7			424.9	-67.0	8,489.4		587.0

* Series has no seasonality. Figures are unadjusted.

Note: Beginning with 1986 Portugal and Spain are included in the EEC.

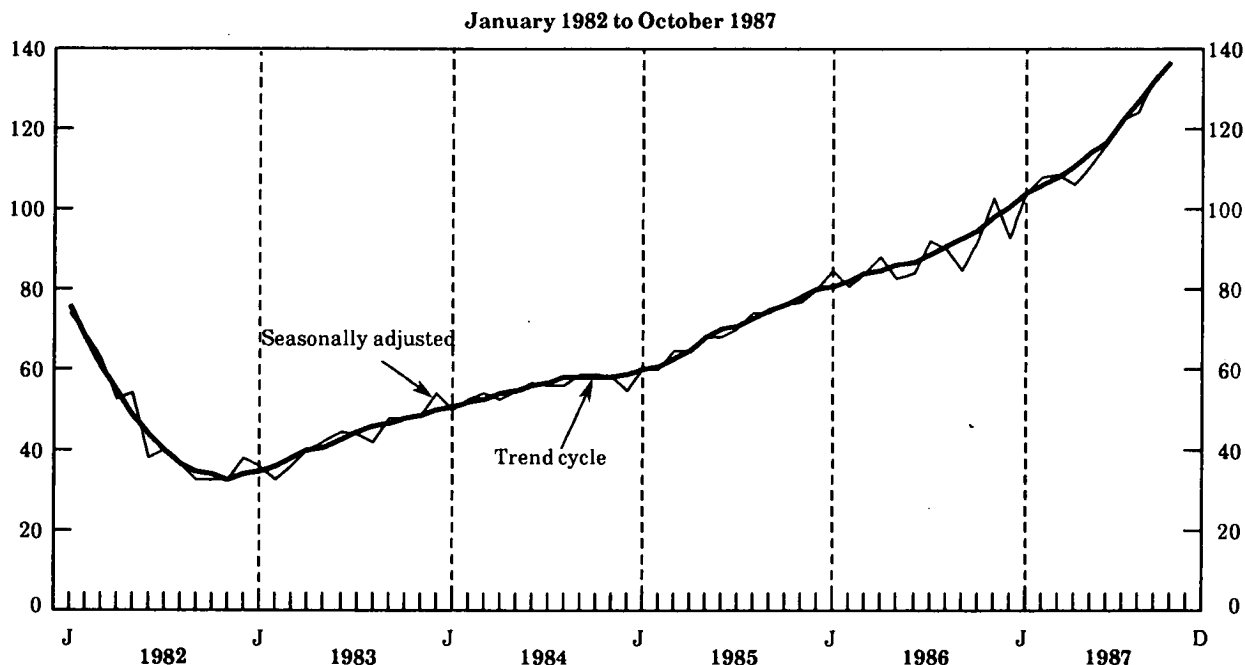
Reconciled Merchandise Trade between Canada and the United States

Raw Data

		January to September	
		1986	1987
		\$ millions	
Exports	Customs Basis		
	<i>United States</i>	69,078.6	69,013.2
	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	154.3	166.0
	<i>U.S. Virgin Islands</i>	3.7	4.8
	Published Total	69,236.6	69,184.0
	Reconciliation Adjustments	2,392.6	901.9
	Reconciled Basis	71,629.2	70,085.9
	Other B.O.P. Adjustments	-1,786.0	874.5
	B.O.P. Basis	69,843.2	70,960.4
Imports	Customs Basis		
	<i>United States</i>	58,104.1	57,402.8
	<i>Puerto Rico</i>	147.4	164.6
	<i>U.S. Virgin Islands</i>	31.9	41.6
	Published Total	58,283.4	57,609.0
	Reconciliation Adjustments	-313.8	-157.2
	Reconciled Basis	57,969.6	57,451.8
	Other B.O.P. Adjustments	-517.5	-111.2
	B.O.P. Basis	57,452.1	57,340.5
Balance	Reconciled Basis	13,659.6	12,634.2
	B.O.P. Basis	12,391.1	13,619.9

Note: Non-receipt of export documents accounts for most of the reconciliation adjustment.

Help-wanted Index, Canada (1981 = 100)



Help-wanted Index

October 1987

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.

- The seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index for Canada (1981=100) continued to increase between September and October 1987 (to 136 from 133). This is the sixth consecutive month for which the index has been at its highest level since 1962, the first year for which data are available.
- Between September and October, the index increased to 54 from 49 in British Columbia and to 184 from 178 in Ontario. The Prairie region Help-wanted Index decreased to 55 from 60, falling to a level slightly above the one observed in August 1987. There was little or no change in the remaining regions.

- In October 1987, the Canada trend-cycle¹, continued its advance which commenced in December 1982 (see chart).

(see table on page 10)

Available on CANSIM: matrix 105.

Contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-4045) or Horst Stiebert (613-951-4044), Labour Division.

¹ The trend cycle provides an indication of the direction in the demand for labour as estimated by the Help-wanted Index. It is calculated by the X-11 ARIMA seasonal adjustment program. Essentially, the calculation involves a 13-term Henderson moving average which smooths irregular fluctuations in the seasonally adjusted data.

Help-wanted Index

(1981 = 100)

Canada and Regions (Seasonally Adjusted)

Year and month	Canada	Atlantic Region	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie Region	British Columbia
1986						
October	92	144	102	118	42	43
November	103	119	121	128	46	40
December	93	108	97	130	44	37
1987						
January	104	138	105	145	48	39
February	108	142	118	144	47	40
March	109	129	128	140	47	39
April	106	130	119	141	46	44
May	111	140	119	151	51	47
June	116	134	135	149	54	49
July	122	146	138	166	50	49
August	124	158	131	170	53	53
September	133	169	146	178	60	49
October	136	168	147	184	55	54

Data Availability Announcements

Housing Starts

September 1987

Highlights

Total (all areas)

- Seasonally adjusted at annual rates, 233,000 dwelling units were started in September, a 19.7% drop from the revised level of 290,000 units in August.
- In spite of this monthly decline, housing starts were at a level of 263,000 units during the third quarter, representing a 10-year peak.

Urban Centres of 10,000 Population and Over

- September starts dropped to 200,000 units from a level of 257,000 in August, reflecting a sharp decrease for multiple housing units.
- On a regional basis, substantial declines in housing starts were registered in all areas.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 23-25, 29, 988, 4091 and 4092.

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

Telecommunications Statistics

Third Quarter 1987

Telelobe Canada and CNCP Telecommunications reported revenue of \$164.0 million in the third quarter of 1987, up 6.5% from the third quarter of 1986. Operating expenses were \$108.2 million, a decrease of 2.6% from the same period in 1986. Net operating revenue was \$55.8 million, compared with \$42.8 million in the third quarter of 1986.

Order the Communications Service Bulletin, *Telecommunications Statistics*, third quarter 1987 (56-001, \$6.50/\$39), scheduled for release the week of November 23. Contact J.R. Slattery (613-951-2205), Services Division.

Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins

September 1987

Canadian manufacturers produced 88 853 tonnes of polyethylene synthetic resins in September 1987, a decrease of 13.0% from the 102 188 tonnes produced in September 1986.

January to September 1987 production totalled 935 966 tonnes, up 11.3% from 840 625 tonnes produced during the same period in 1986.

Data are also available on Canadian production of three other types of synthetic resins and 28 industrial chemicals for September 1987, September 1986 and corresponding cumulative figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 951.

Order the September 1987 issue of *Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins* (46-002, \$5/\$50), to be released the week of November 30. Contact Raj Sehdev (613-951-3513), Industry Division.

Production of Eggs

September 1987

Canadian egg production increased by 0.4% to 40.4 million dozen in September 1987 from 40.3 million a year earlier. The average number of layers decreased slightly from September 1986, while the number of eggs per 100 layers in September 1987 increased to 2,076 from 2,061.

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

Order the September 1987 issue of *Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry* (23-003, \$10/\$100), scheduled for release on December 2. Contact Peter Beerstecher (613-951-2505), Agriculture Division.

Export and Import Price Indexes

September 1987

Current and fixed weighted export and import price indexes, on a balance of payments basis (1981=100) are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1981 to September 1987 for the seven commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3633, 3635, 3636 and 3638.

Customs based current and fixed weighted U.S. price indexes are also available. Price indexes are listed from January 1981 to September 1987 on a 1981=100 basis. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 "All Countries" and "U.S. only" SITC section indexes.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3639-3642.

Order the September 1987 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$15/\$150), available the last week of November. Contact John Butterill (613-951-4804), Price Index Unit, International Trade Division.

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Publications Released

Quarterly Economic Summary: Statistical Supplement – last issue, October 1987.
Catalogue number 13-007E
(Canada: \$25/\$100; Other Countries: \$26/\$104).

Rigid Insulating Board, September 1987.
Catalogue number 36-002
(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers, September 1987.
Catalogue number 36-004
(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Gypsum Products, September 1987.
Catalogue number 44-003
(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation, September 1987.
Catalogue number 44-004
(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Asphalt Roofing, September 1987.
Catalogue number 45-001
(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada, August 1987.
Catalogue number 47-004
(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Salaries and Salary Scales of Full-time Teaching Staff at Canadian Universities, 1984-85.
Catalogue number 81-258
(Canada: \$15; Other Countries: \$16).

Geographic Reference – Enumeration Area Reference Lists: Census Divisions and Subdivisions, Atlantic Provinces, 1986 Census.
Catalogue number 99-117
(Canada: \$22; Other Countries: \$23).

Geographic Reference – Enumeration Area Reference Lists: Census Divisions and Subdivisions, Ontario, 1986 Census.
Catalogue number 99-119
(Canada: \$22; Other Countries: \$23).

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