

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, November 23, 1987

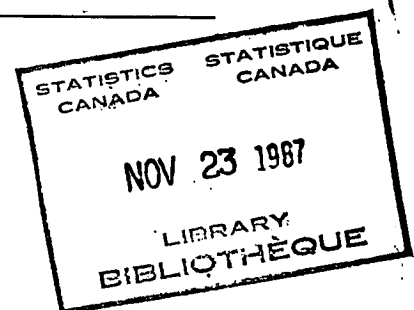
Major Releases

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| • Seasonally adjusted, sales volume of refined petroleum products reached the highest level since April 1982. | |
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Publications Released



Statistics
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Major Releases

Chart 1
Value of Building Permits Issued in Canada

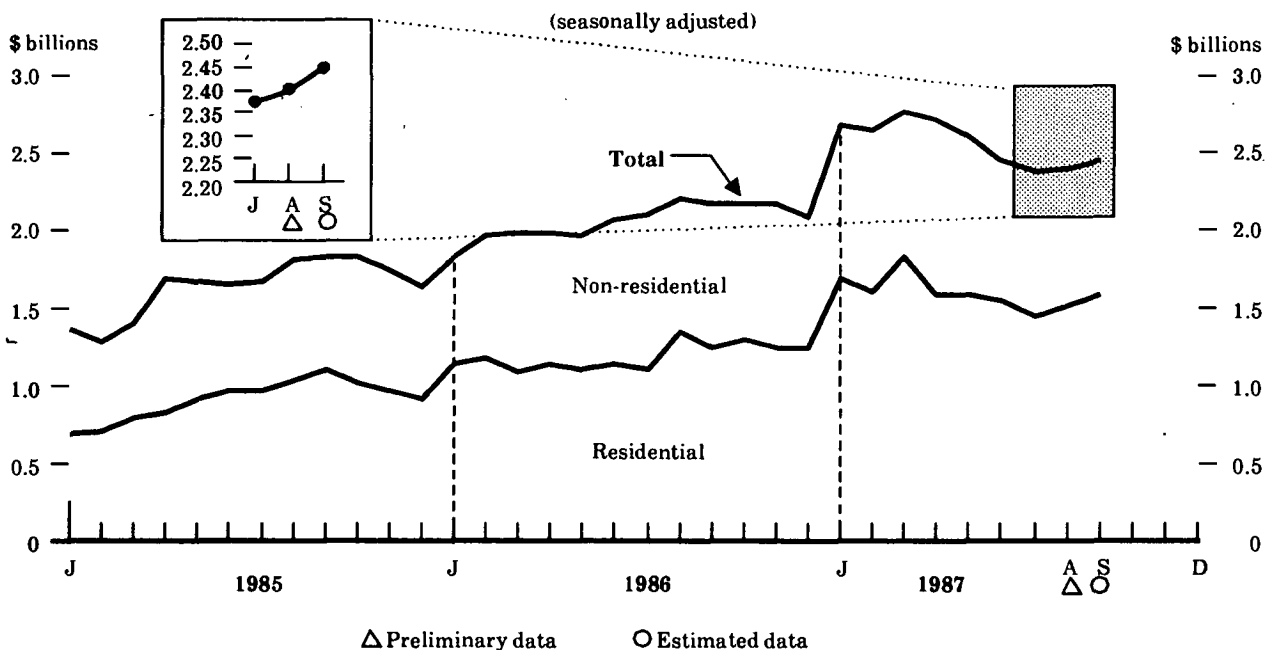
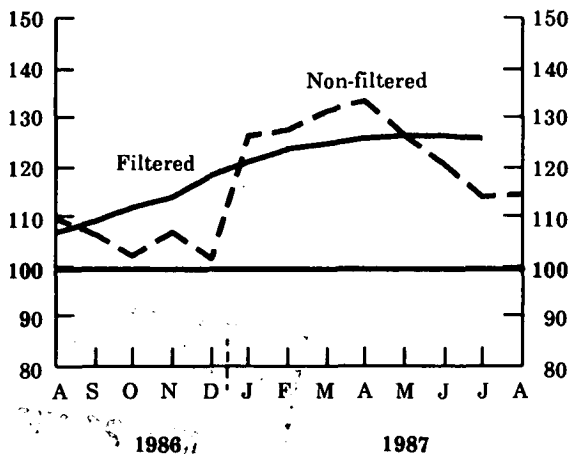


Chart 2
Filtered and Non-filtered Indexes of Building Permits Issued, Canada

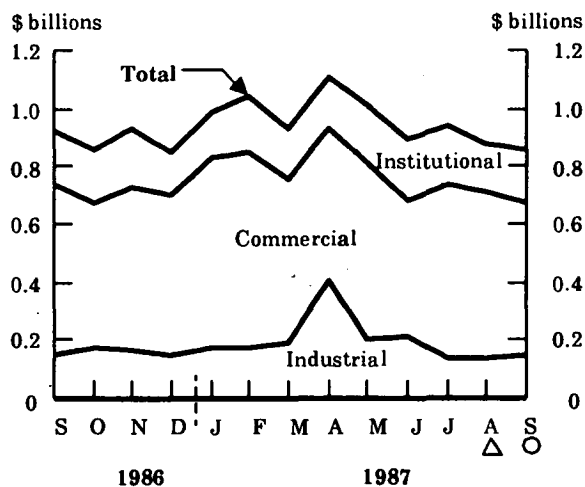
Seasonally adjusted data
in constant dollars (1981 = 100)



△ Preliminary data

Chart 3
Value of Non-residential Permits Issued in Canada

(seasonally adjusted)



Building Permits

September 1987

(Seasonally adjusted data and construction leading indicator)

Summary

The estimated value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities reached \$2,438.4 million in September, up 1.4% from \$2,405.8 million in August. This increase was entirely attributable to an unexpectedly high level of activity in the residential sector.

The increases in building permits registered in August and September were not strong enough to maintain the level of the leading indicator which dropped 0.3% to 125.8 in July.

Residential Sector

- The estimated value of residential building permits rose 3.7% in September to \$1,576.2 million.
- This increase was attributable to gains in the multi-family dwelling sector (+10.2%) and to a lesser extent the single-family dwelling sector (+0.7%) with values of \$528.1 million and \$1,048.1 million respectively.
- The filtered index of residential building permits slipped slightly (-0.2%) in July to 150.0, reflecting decreases registered by this sector throughout the current year. This decline is significant in that it coincides with a downward trend that has been occurring for the past few months in the housing resales sector (MLS)¹.
- The number of housing units authorized totalled 251,600 at annual rates in September (131,800 single detached and 119,800 multiple dwellings), a gain of 8.7% from August.

¹ MLS: Multiple Listing Service.

Non-residential Sector

- The estimated value of non-residential building permits was \$862.2 million in September, down 2.7% from \$885.7 million in August.
- Gains were recorded in the governmental sector (+10.0% to \$188.7 million) and the industrial sector (+8.6% to \$150.0 million) in September. The commercial sector declined 9.1% to \$523.5 million.
- Gains in the non-residential sector were recorded only in the Atlantic region while all other regions registered losses.
- Recent fluctuations in the value of building permits for the non-residential sector resulted in a drop in the non-residential filtered index (-0.5%) to 100.4 in July compared to 100.9 in June.

Note to Users

The leading indicator is a short-term investment anticipator for the construction sector. It is based on the value of the building permits issued and comprises the following stages: deflating (1981=100), seasonal adjustment, and filtering to get a trend-cycle.

In order to reduce the number of false signals in the construction activity series, the leading indicator is lagged two months in relation to the month of reference.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3, 5, 9-15) and 129, 137, 443, 989-991, 994, 995 and 4073.

Order the August 1987 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$20/\$200), scheduled for release the third week of December. Contact Francine Monette (613-951-2583), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

Sales of Refined Petroleum Products

September 1987

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted

- Seasonally adjusted, sales of refined petroleum products totalled 7 072 920 cubic metres (m³) in August 1987, up 7.1% from a year earlier and the largest sales volume since April 1982. As a result of the September increase, cumulative sales rose 3.8% from the the same period last year.
- Strong performances by all four main products were the principal factor in the September increase. Following declines in July and August, motor gasoline sales rose 10.5% while diesel fuel sales, up 6.8%, continued to maintain generally higher sales volumes. Heavy fuel sales posted a seventh gain this year, rising 16.0% while light fuel sales, up 15.7%, registered their largest increase since February 1987.
- On a provincial basis, gains outnumbered declines by a margin of 10 to two in September. The largest volume increase, at +125 600 m³ (+8.8%) was recorded in Quebec while the greatest decline was experienced in Ontario (-8 200 m³, -0.3%).
- On a cumulative basis, January-September 1987 total sales were up 3.7% over the corresponding period in 1986. Within this total, heavy fuel sales climbed 11.2%, diesel fuel sales rose 4.3% and motor gasoline sales were up 1.3%, while light fuel sales fell 8.5%.

(see table on page 5)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 628-641 and 644-647.

Unadjusted Sales

- Total sales of refined petroleum products in September, at 7 124 400 m³, rose 7.0% over September 1986 - the twelfth year-over-year increase in the last 13 months. Three of the four main products contributed to the September increase. Diesel fuel sales, up

Order the September 1987 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, \$15/\$150), available the last week of December. Contact Gerard O'Connor (613-951-3562), Energy Section, Industry Division.

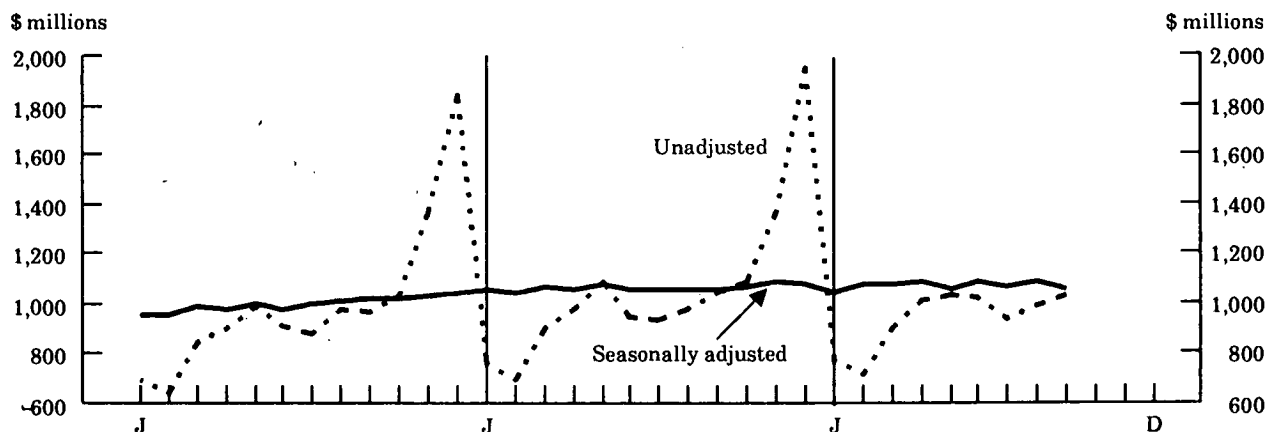
Sales of Refined Petroleum Products

	June 1987	July 1987	Aug. 1987 ^r	Sept. 1987 ^p	Sept. '87/ Aug. '87
	(thousands of cubic metres)				%
Adjusted for Seasonal Variation					
Total, All Products	6 953.3	6 833.5	6 606.7	7 072.9	7.1
Main Products:					
Motor Gasoline	2 872.2	2 785.2	2 604.6	2 878.0	10.5
Diesel Fuel Oil	1 333.0	1 276.1	1 295.9	1 384.4	6.8
Light Fuel Oil	612.7	618.6	527.3	609.9	15.7
Heavy Fuel Oil	635.5	656.8	615.6	714.1	16.0
	Sept. 1987 ^p	Sept. 1986	Total Jan.- Sept. 1987	Total Jan.- Sept. 1986	Cum.'87/ Cum.'86
	(thousands of cubic metres)				%
Not adjusted for Seasonal Variation					
Total, All Products	7 124.4	6 660.6	59 516.1	57 396.3	3.7
Main Products:					
Motor Gasoline	2 992.6	2 927.6	24 868.8	24 549.4	1.3
Diesel Fuel Oil	1 551.4	1 351.1	11 558.5	11 086.7	4.3
Light Fuel Oil	305.9	318.9	4 379.8	4 784.3	-8.5
Heavy Fuel Oil	627.2	507.9	4 985.0	4 445.3	11.2

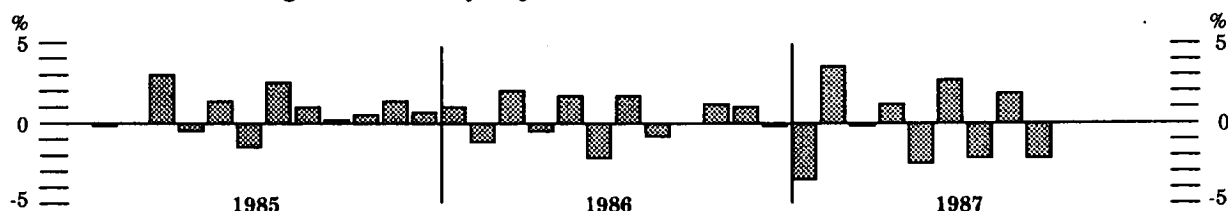
^p Preliminary.

^r Revised.

Department Store Sales, by Month, Unadjusted and Seasonally Adjusted, Canada, 1985-1987



Month-to-month Changes (seasonally adjusted)



Department Store Sales and Stocks September 1987

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted Data

- Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, department store sales in September 1987 totalled \$1,056 million, a decrease of 2.3% from the previous month's revised total of \$1,081 million. Lower sales were recorded in 29 of the 40 departments.
- Department store sales have fluctuated significantly in the first nine months of 1987 while experiencing little overall growth.
- Seasonally adjusted, department store stocks (at selling value) totalled \$4,794 million at the end of September 1987, up

5.6% from the August 1987 revised value of \$4,539 million. This constitutes the fifth consecutive monthly increase.

- The ratio of inventories to sales stood at 4.54:1 in September, up significantly from the average ratio of 4.15:1 observed in the eight previous months.

Unadjusted Data

- Department stores in Canada reported sales totalling \$1,029 million in September 1987, down 0.7% from the September 1986 level of \$1,037 million. Cumulative sales for the period January to September 1987 totalled \$8,412 million, up 1.0% from the corresponding period in 1986.

(continued on page 7)

- Excluding food and kindred products, department store sales increased by 2.6% in September 1987, compared to the corresponding month a year earlier.
- Five provinces posted decreases in September 1987 from the corresponding month in 1986, with declines ranging from 16.4% in Alberta to 3.6% in Saskatchewan. Increases were recorded in Prince Edward Island (+21.3%), New Brunswick (+9.4%), Ontario (+8.0%), Nova Scotia (+2.9%) and Quebec (+1.3%). Sales were down in five of the 10 metropolitan areas surveyed.
- Sales by major department stores in September 1987 totalled \$642 million, down 3.0% from the corresponding month a year earlier, while junior department stores had sales of \$387 million, up 3.2% from the same period last year.
- Unadjusted, department store stocks at month-end totalled \$4,764 million, an increase of 5.5% over the level reached in September 1986.

Note to Users:

Users should note that the year-over-year movements for Alberta and British Columbia have been affected by the sale of the food department of an important department store organization effective May 25, 1987. These comparisons should therefore be used with caution.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 112.

Order the September 1987 issue of *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (63-002, \$13/\$130), available the first week of January 1988. Contact Roger Laplante (613-951-3549), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

Data Availability Announcement

Stocks of Frozen Meats

November 1, 1987

Total frozen meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of November amounted to 29 001 tonnes as compared with 28 791 tonnes last month and 26 945 tonnes a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9517-9525.

Order the November issue of *Stocks of Frozen Meat Products* (32-012, \$10/\$100), scheduled for release on December 3. Contact P.L. Beerstecher (613-951-2505), Agriculture Division.

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Publications Released

**Gross Domestic Product by
Industry, August 1987.**

Catalogue number 15-001

(Canada: \$10/\$100; Other Countries: \$11/110).

**Department Store Monthly Sales,
by Province and Metropolitan**

Area, September 1987.

Catalogue number 63-004

(Canada: \$2/\$20; Other Countries: \$3/\$30).

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