

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, December 11, 1987

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Major Release

DEC 11 1987

Farm Product Price Index, October 1987

- Farm prices dropped 2.2% from September.

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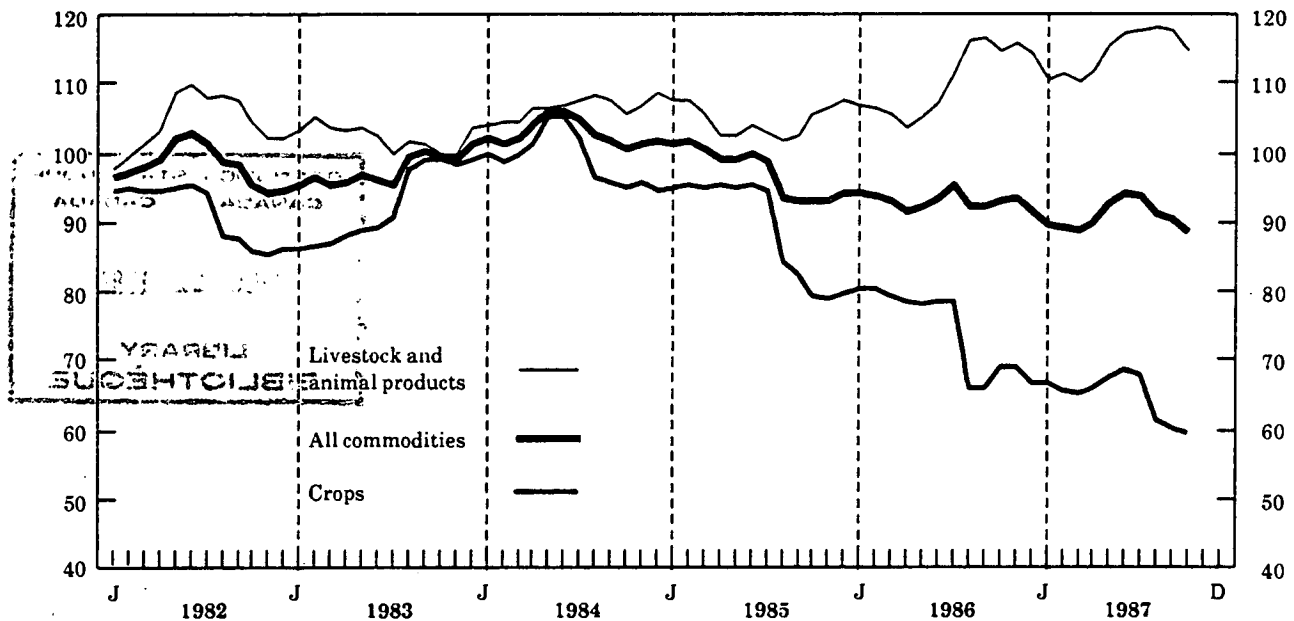
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Major Release

Farm Product Price Index (1981 = 100)



Farm Product Price Index

October 1987

The Farm Product Price Index (1981 = 100) for Canada stood at 88.2 in October, down 2.2% from the revised September level of 90.2. This was the fourth consecutive decrease in the index following three monthly increases. A drop in both crop and livestock prices contributed to the decrease in the overall index. The October 1987 index stood 5.0% below the year-earlier level of 92.8.

Between September and October 1987, the index fell in every province. The decreases, in percentage terms, were as follows:

• Newfoundland	-0.2%
• Prince Edward Island	-10.1%
• Nova Scotia	-1.2%
• New Brunswick	-8.7%
• Quebec	-2.7%
• Ontario	-2.1%
• Manitoba	-1.1%

• Saskatchewan	-2.3%
• Alberta	-1.0%
• British Columbia	-2.6%
• Canada	-2.2%

Livestock and Animal Products

The total livestock and animal products index decreased 2.5% in October 1987 mainly due to lower hog prices. Cattle and egg prices also decreased while prices for milk and poultry showed little change. This was the second consecutive decrease in the index from its record level set in August 1987.

- Hog prices dropped 10.6% in October. Associated with the price decrease in October was increased pork production in both Canada and the United States. The hog index, at 113.5, was 11.9% below its year-earlier level.

(continued on page 3)

- The cattle index decreased 1.2% in October from the record level recorded in September, mainly due to lower prices for slaughter and feeder cattle. The cattle index, at 117.1, had been trending upward between July 1986 and September 1987.
- The oilseeds index increased 3.8% in October to a level of 74.7. This was the first increase in the index in four months as higher prices for canola and flaxseed more than offset decreases in soybean prices. With the increase in October 1987, the oilseeds index remained 4.0% higher than its year-earlier level.

Crops

The crops index decreased 1.3% in October and stood at 59.3. Cereal and potato prices were lower in October while oilseed prices rose. The crops index was at its lowest level since February 1978.

- The potato index decreased for the fourth consecutive month. The index, at 72.0, has fallen 42% during this period to its lowest level since June 1986. Potato prices have fallen as the potato crops harvested in both Canada and the United States in 1987 were larger than in the previous year.
- The cereals index stood at 45.6% in October, down 1.9% from the previous month. A larger proportion of low quality wheat was delivered to the Canadian Wheat Board in October, resulting in lower wheat prices. The index was 22% below its year-earlier level, largely due to lower Canadian Wheat Board initial prices for wheat, oats and barley which took effect in August 1987. Since August 1987, the index has been at its lowest point since July 1973 and was 57% below the January 1981 peak of 107.0.

User note:

The index is designed to measure changes in prices received by producers when ownership of a commodity first changes hands. Prices used in the index for Western wheat, oats and barley sold to the Canadian Wheat Board prior to August 1986 are final prices. Beginning in August 1986, initial prices are used and therefore exclude any forthcoming adjustment or final payments. Sub-indexes for livestock, crops and their components are also available on a provincial basis.

Users should note that the index has been revised where necessary in 1985 and 1986 to include any revisions to prices that have become available for that period.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 176.

Order the October issue of *Farm Product Price Index* (62-003), scheduled for release January 5, 1988. Contact Paul Murray (613-951-2437), Farm Income and Prices Section, Agriculture Division.

Data Availability Announcements

Housing Starts

October 1987

Highlights

Total (all areas)

- For a third consecutive month, housing starts registered a decrease. Seasonally adjusted at annual rates, a total of 223,000 units were started in October, a drop of 4.3% from 233,000 the previous month.
- This decline is totally attributable to the single family dwelling sector.

Urban Centres of 10,000 Population and Over

- Housing starts in urban areas declined only 1% in October, as a drop in single detached dwellings was almost totally offset by an increase recorded in the multiple dwelling sector.
- On a regional basis, the Atlantic and Quebec regions reported substantial increases while the remaining regions posted moderate declines.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 25 and 29.

Order the October 1987 issue of *Housing Starts and Completions* (64-002), scheduled for release January 15. Contact P. Pichette (613-951-9689), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

University Enrolment (1986-87) and Degrees Granted (1986)

Information on enrolment at Canadian universities during the 1986-87 academic year and degrees granted in 1986 is now available.

Order *Universities: Enrolment and Degrees*, 1986 (81-204), available in April 1988. Contact Tom Bird (613-951-1538), Postsecondary Education Section, Education, Science and Culture Division.

Production and Value of Berries 1986

1986 Canadian estimates of production and value for blueberries, raspberries, strawberries and cranberries are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1395 and 1404-1406.

Order the fourth issue of *Fruit and Vegetable Production* (22-003), available in late January. Contact L.D. Kemp (613-951-8727), Agriculture Division.

Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period Ending November 21, 1987

Highlights

- Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the week totalled 5.3 million tonnes, an increase of 10.7% from the previous year.
- Piggyback traffic increased 10.5% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded increased 7.6%.
- The tonnage of revenue freight loaded to date this year is 4.6% more than that loaded in the previous year.

	Seven-day Period ending November 21, 1987	Year to date
Carload Traffic		
Tonnes	5 277 317	222 127 849
% change from previous year	10.7	4.6
Cars	77,181	3,244,980
% change from previous year	8.3	1.9
Piggyback Traffic		
Tonnes	260 697	11 474 847
% change from previous year	10.5	6.2
Cars	8,993	405,604
% change from previous year	7.6	4.1

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.

Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products

October 1987

Factory shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 66 132 tonnes in October 1987, a decrease of 6.7% from the 70 907^r (revised figure) tonnes shipped during the previous month.

Year-to-date shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 621 672 tonnes in 1987, an increase of 3.9% from the 598 223 tonnes shipped during the same period in 1986.

Factory shipments of steel wire and specified wire products for October 1987 are now available as are production and export market data for selected commodities.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

Order the October 1987 issue of *Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products* (41-006, \$4/\$40), to be released the week of December 21. Contact Michel Cormier (613-951-3522), Industry Division.

Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins

October 1987

Canadian chemical firms produced 116 405 tonnes of polyethylene synthetic resins in October 1987, an increase of 49.0% from the 78 098^r (revised figure) tonnes produced in October 1986.

January to October 1987 production totalled 1 052 371 tonnes, up 14.5% from 918 723^r 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 October 1987, October 1986 and corresponding cumulative figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 951.

Order the October 1987 issue of *Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins* (46-002), to be released the first week of January 1988. Contact Raj Sehdev (613-951-3513), Industry Division.

Publications Released

**Fruit and Vegetable Preservation Service
Bulletin, Vol. 15, No. 23, Pack of Apples and
Apple Products, 1986.**
Catalogue number 32-023
(Canada: \$6/\$100; Other Countries: \$7/\$110).

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

**Culture Statistics - Periodical Publishing,
1985. Catalogue number 87-203**
(Canada: \$10; Other Countries: \$11).

Statistics Canada publications may be purchased by mail order from Publication Sales, Room 1710, Main Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6 or phone 613-951-7276.

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Publications may also be ordered through Statistics Canada's offices in St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Sturgeon Falls, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver, or from authorized bookstore agents or other booksellers.

A national toll-free telephone order service is now in operation at Statistics Canada. The toll-free line (1-800-267-6677) can be used by Canadian customers for the ordering of Statistics Canada products and services.

Major Release Dates: Week of December 14 - 18

(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
December		
15-16	Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing	Third Quarter 1987
16-17	Financial Institutions: Financial Statistics	Third Quarter 1987
18	The Consumer Price Index	November 1987
18	Retail Trade	October 1987
18-21	Canada's Foreign Trade in Automotive Products	Third Quarter 1987

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