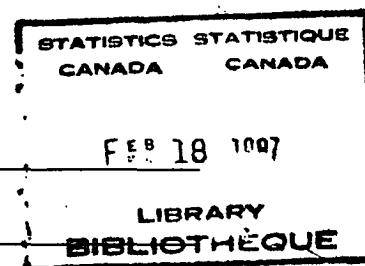


The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, February 18, 1987



Major Releases

Department Store Sales and Stocks, December 1986 and Annual Review

2

- Following two consecutive monthly increases, seasonally adjusted department store sales remained unchanged from the November 1986 level.

Labour Market Developments in Canada, 1986

4

- The number of persons employed increased by 323,000 to an all-time annual high of 11.6 million.

Sales of Refined Petroleum Products, December 1986

5

- Seasonally adjusted, total sales of refined petroleum products increased 4.1% from November.

Data Availability Announcements

Steel Ingots, Week Ending February 14, 1987

7

Railway Carloadings, Seven Days Ending February 7, 1987

7

Publications Released

8



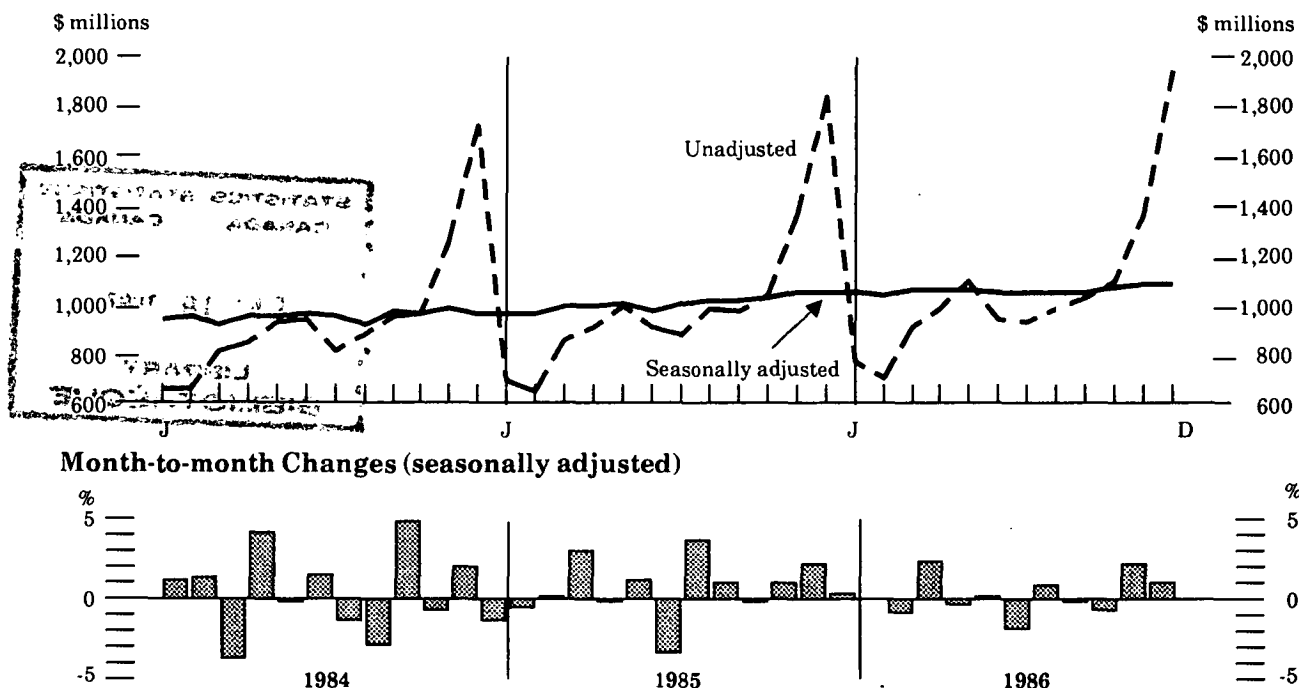
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Major Releases

Department Store Sales, by Month, Unadjusted and Seasonally Adjusted, Canada, 1984-1986



Department Store Sales and Stocks December 1986

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted Data

- Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, department store sales totalled \$1,077 million in December 1986, unchanged from the previous month's revised level. This followed gains of 1.1% in November and 2.3% in October.
- Seasonally adjusted, department store stocks (at selling value) totalled \$4,577 million at the end of December, up 11.1% over the November 1986 revised value of \$4,119 million. This significant increase in December followed declines of 1.7% in October and 3.3% in November.

- The inventories to sales ratio stood at 4.25:1 in December, considerably higher than the average ratio of 3.97:1 observed during 1986.

Unadjusted Data

- Department stores in Canada reported sales totalling \$1,945 million in December 1986, up 6.1% from the December 1985 level of \$1,834 million.
- With the exception of Alberta, which recorded a decrease of 1.4% from the corresponding month in 1985, all other provinces registered higher sales in December 1986. The increases ranged from 22.0% in Prince Edward Island to 2.3% in Manitoba. Sales rose in eight of the 10 metropolitan areas surveyed.

(continued on page 3)

- Sales by major department stores in December 1986 reached \$1,163 million, up 3.5% over the corresponding month a year earlier, while junior department stores had sales of \$783 million, up 10.2% over the same period last year.
- Unadjusted, department store stocks at month-end totalled \$4,282 million, a sharp increase of 21.2% over the level reached in December 1985.
- Major department store organizations reported sales of \$7,761 million in 1986, an increase of 3.8% over 1985. Junior department stores recorded sales of \$4,906 million, up 7.5% over 1985.
- Major department store sales accounted for 61.3% of total department store sales, as compared to 62.1% in 1985 and 63.1% in 1984. Over the last five years, their market share has gradually declined.

Annual 1986 (Preliminary Estimates)

- Department store sales rose 5.2% in 1986 to a level of \$12,668 million, a slight deceleration from the 5.7% growth recorded in 1985. This marks the fourth consecutive year in which department store sales have increased.
- The growth in 1986 was broadly based as 31 of the 40 departments covered by the survey recorded higher sales. The largest increases were in women's and misses' sportswear (+14.1%), repairs and services (+13.7%) and women's, misses' and children's footwear (+12.5%). Decreases ranged from 14.7% for millinery to 0.4% for hardware, paints and wallpaper.
- At the provincial level, when compared to 1985, total department store sales rose in all provinces with increases ranging from 7.6% in Ontario to 1.4% in both Alberta and Manitoba. Sales also advanced in all 10 metropolitan areas surveyed, with gains ranging from 9.1% in Toronto to 0.6% in Calgary.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 112.

Order the December 1986 issue of *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (63-002, \$13/\$130), available the second week of April. Contact: Lina Di Piéto (613-991-3551) or Emma MacPhail (613-990-9824), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

Labour Market Developments in Canada 1986

In 1986, the annual unemployment rate fell below 10% for the first time since 1981. Moreover, 1986 employment was a substantial 3% higher than the 1985 level.

Highlights of Labour Market Developments in Canada, 1986, a review of last year's labour market performance include:

- The level of employment increased by 323,000 to an all-time annual high of 11.6 million in 1986. However, most of the employment gains made last year occurred in the first quarter.
- The rise in employment last year in turn pushed up the employment/population ratio by one full percentage point to 59.4%. This ratio, which shows the employed as a proportion of the population 15 years and over, had peaked at 59.9% in 1981, before the recession.
- At nearly 4%, British Columbia registered the largest employment increase by province; above-average gains were also recorded in Ontario and New Brunswick. The employment/population ratio rose in every province, with British Columbia exhibiting the largest change.
- Full-time and part-time employment both increased approximately 3% in 1986, following more than a decade of uneven

growth. From 1976 to 1985, part-time employment rose on average 5.9% each year, compared to only 1.4% for full-time work.

- Between 1985 and 1986, employment growth was greater in the service sector (3%) than in the goods-producing sector (2%), continuing a trend of the past decade. In 1986, the goods-producing sector accounted for only 29% of the employed compared to 34% a decade earlier.
- The number of "long-term" unemployed (persons unemployed more than 52 weeks) dropped by 18% to 109,000 in 1986. This percentage decrease was much greater than the 7% decline in the overall level of unemployment between these two years (to 1,236,000 from 1,328,000). Nevertheless, the long-term unemployed still accounted for 9% of the total unemployed last year compared to less than 3% in 1976.
- The largest unemployment declines in 1986 occurred in Ontario and British Columbia. In fact, these two provinces accounted for nearly 70% of the overall drop in unemployment.

The above highlights are from Labour Market Developments in Canada, 1986, the feature article in the January issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, \$20/\$200), now available. Contact: Maryanne Webber (613-991-6894), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

Sales of Refined Petroleum Products

December 1986

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted

- Seasonally adjusted, sales of refined petroleum products in December rose to 6 611 553 cubic metres, up 4.1% from November. This marked the first increase since September.
- Despite the December increase, cumulative sales of refined petroleum products in 1986 stood at approximately the same level as those in 1985.
- The December increase was broadly based across most of the main products. Sales of motor gasoline increased for the first time during the last three months, up 3.1% to 2 774 428 cubic metres. Diesel fuel oil sales continued the upward trend started in September, increasing by 5.4% to a level of 1 312 390 cubic metres. Heavy fuel sales rose 6.4% to 567 254 cubic metres. The only decrease recorded in the main products was in light fuel oil where sales declined for the fourth consecutive month, down 0.7% to 569 734 cubic metres.

Unadjusted Sales

- Total sales of refined petroleum products in December increased to 7 228 600 cubic metres, up 2.6% from the same month a

year earlier. Cumulative sales for 1986 stood at 78 005 300 cubic metres, up slightly from sales of 77 683 200 cubic metres for the same period in 1985.

- Most main products contributed to this increase. Motor gasoline sales rose 1.4% over December 1985 to reach 2 828 500 cubic metres. Increases were posted for light fuel sales, up 1.7% to 1 058 800 cubic metres and for heavy fuel sales, up 13.6% to 797 700 cubic metres. Diesel fuel sales showed the only decline in the main products, dropping to 1 238 400 cubic metres (-1.2%).
- On a provincial basis, Ontario and New Brunswick posted the largest increases from December 1985. Sales of all products increased by 96 800 cubic metres (4.0%) in Ontario and 94 900 cubic metres (31.8%) in New Brunswick. Offsetting these increases were decreases in Saskatchewan of 27 400 cubic metres (-9.8%) and in Manitoba of 19 900 cubic metres (-8.2%).

(see table on page 6)

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

Order the December 1986 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, \$15/\$150), available the fourth week of March. Contact: Gérard O'Connor (613-991-3562), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Sales of Refined Petroleum Products
(thousands of cubic metres)

| | September 1986 | October 1986 | November 1986 ^r | December 1986 ^p | December 1986/ November 1986 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Adjusted for Seasonal Variation | | | | % change |
| Total - all products | 6 615.3 | 6 529.2 | 6 350.2 | 6 611.6 | 4.1 |
| Main products: | | | | | |
| Motor gasoline | 2 830.1 | 2 800.1 | 2 691.9 | 2 774.4 | 3.1 |
| Diesel fuel oil | 1 226.0 | 1 243.5 | 1 244.9 | 1 312.4 | 5.4 |
| Light fuel oil | 683.9 | 644.9 | 573.5 | 569.7 | -0.7 |
| Heavy fuel oil | 528.4 | 498.3 | 533.2 | 567.3 | 6.4 |

| | December 1986 ^p | December 1985 | November 1986 ^r | Total Jan.-Dec. 1986 | Total Jan.-Dec. 1985 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Not adjusted for Seasonal Variation | | | | |
| Total - all products | 7 228.6 | 7 040.0 | 6 386.5 | 78 005.3 | 77 683.2 |
| Main products: | | | | | |
| Motor gasoline | 2 828.5 | 2 789.7 | 2 584.9 | 32 906.6 | 32 730.5 |
| Diesel fuel oil | 1 238.4 | 1 253.4 | 1 230.7 | 14 975.6 | 15 142.6 |
| Light fuel oil | 1 058.8 | 1 041.6 | 672.9 | 7 019.1 | 7 372.3 |
| Heavy fuel oil | 797.7 | 702.0 | 575.1 | 6 307.9 | 5 868.1 |

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

Data Availability Announcements

Steel Ingots

Week Ending February 14, 1987

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian steel ingot production for the week ending February 14, 1987 totalled 283 303 tonnes, an increase of 1.0% from the preceding week's total of 280 403 tonnes and up 1.2% from the year-earlier level of 279 867 tonnes.

The cumulative total in 1987 was 1 803 706 tonnes, an increase of 4.9% from 1 719 194 tonnes for the same period in 1986.

Contact: Gerry W. Barrett (613-991-3515), Industry Division.

Railway Carloadings

Seven Days Ending February 7, 1987

Freight tonnages loaded by railways in Canada for the week ending February 7, 1987 totalled 4.7 million tonnes, an increase of 2.0% from the 1986 figure. Loadings decreased in the East by 0.8% and increased in the West by 4.2%.

Container-trailer or piggyback tonnages (included above) increased in the East by 9.9% and in the West by 3.1%; there was an overall national increase of 7.7%.

The year-to-date rail freight loadings totalled 23.6 million tonnes, a decrease of 1.3% from the previous year. During the same period, piggyback cars loaded increased 2.9%.

Order the Vol. 3, No. 5 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-005, \$75 a year), scheduled for release the week of February 23. Contact: Mamady Kaba (613-990-6154), Surface Transport Section, Transportation Division.

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Publications Released

Specified Domestic Electrical

Appliances, December 1986.

Catalogue number 43-003

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

Non-metallic Mineral Products

Industries – Non-metallic Mineral

Insulating Materials Industry,

1985 Census of Manufactures.

Catalogue number 44-250B 3594

(Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

**Quarterly Report on Energy Supply-
demand in Canada, Second Quarter 1986.**

Catalogue number 57-003

(Canada: \$25/\$100; Other Countries:
\$26.50/\$106).

**Gross Domestic Product by Industry,
November 1986.**

Catalogue number 61-005

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

Building Permits, October 1986.

Catalogue number 64-001

(Canada: \$20/\$200; Other Countries:
\$21/\$210).

The Labour Force, January 1987.

Catalogue number 71-001

(Canada: \$20/\$200; Other Countries:
\$21.50/\$215).

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