

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, February 5, 1987

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Business Conditions Survey, Canadian Manufacturing Industries, January 1987 2

- Manufacturers note a substantial improvement in the level of finished product inventory, but remain concerned about the level of new orders.

Construction Building Material Price Index: Residential, December 1986 5

- The index increased 0.1% from November and 7.6% year over year.

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- The index remained unchanged from November, but was up 5.0% from December 1985.

Farm Input Price Index, Fourth Quarter 1986 7

- Despite a 0.5% decline from the third quarter of 1986, the FIPI showed a 2.4% increase from the year-earlier level.

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Major Releases

Business Conditions Survey, Canadian Manufacturing Industries

January 1987

Manufacturers' opinions concerning the level of finished product inventory show a substantial improvement from October 1986, according to the seasonally adjusted results of the January 1987 business conditions survey. Notwithstanding this improvement, manufacturers remain concerned about the level of orders.

Highlights

- Manufacturers' opinions concerning the level of **finished product inventory** improved dramatically to -9 in the January survey from a negative balance¹ of -20 in the April, July and October 1986 surveys. This was the best result recorded since January 1981.
- A lower proportion of manufacturers reported declining **new orders received**. However, the situation remained less positive than that observed in the first half of 1986.

¹ The balance is the difference between the proportion associated with a positive-type response (e.g. too low) and the proportion related to the negative-type response (e.g. too high).

- Manufacturers reported a lower than normal **backlog of unfilled orders**, a situation very similar to that registered in the October 1986 survey.
- Expectations for the **volume of production** during the next three months, with a balance of +2, remained unchanged from the October survey, following the slight downward trend observed in the previous two quarters.

(see table on page 2 and charts on page 3)

Data users should note the October 1986 results have been revised to include responses received after the first release of these results.

Available on CANSIM (raw data only):
matrices 2843-2845.

Contact: M. Labonté (613-991-3508),
Shipments, Inventories and Orders Section,
Industry Division.

Business Conditions Survey, Canadian Manufacturing Industries
January 1987

All manufacturing industries	Jan. 1986	Apr. 1986	July 1986	Oct. 1986	Jan. 1987
Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:					
About the same (s.a.)	44	47	45	44	46
Higher (s.a.)	26	29	29	29	28
Lower (s.a.)	30	24	26	27	26
Balance (s.a.)	-4	+5	+3	+2	+2
Balance (raw)	-10	+25	-10	-1	-4
Orders received are:					
About the same (s.a.)	62	61	60	52	54
Rising (s.a.)	22	19	22	21	21
Declining (s.a.)	16	20	18	27	25
Balance (s.a.)	+6	-1	+4	-6	-4
Balance (raw)	+4	+7	+2	-10	-6
Present backlog of unfilled orders is:					
About normal (s.a.)	70	69	73	59	65
Higher than Normal (s.a.)	14	13	9	13	10
Lower than Normal (s.a.)	16	18	18	28	25
Balance (s.a.)	-2	-5	-9	-15	-15
Balance (raw)	-5	-5	-6	-16	-17
Finished product inventory on hand is:					
About right (s.a.)	76	69	71	74	81
Too Low (s.a.)	5	5	4	3	5
Too High ¹	19	26	25	23	14
Balance (s.a.)	-14	-21	-21	-20	-9
Balance (raw)	-15	-22	-21	-18	-10
Sources of production difficulties					
Working Capital Shortage (raw)	3	4	4	3	3
Skilled Labour Shortage (raw)	4	5	5	5	4
Unskilled Labour Shortage (raw)	0	0	0	1	1
Raw Material Shortage (raw)	3	4	4	5	3
Other Difficulties (raw)	2	2	2	3	2
No Difficulties (raw)	88	87	87	85	88

¹ No evident seasonality.

Note: Individual responses to the Business Conditions Survey are weighted by the value of the respondent's shipments reported to the annual Census of Manufactures. The proportions, therefore, reflect the magnitude of the individual manufacturer's contribution to the total. The balance is the difference between the proportion associated with the positive-type response (e.g. higher volume of production) and the proportion related to the negative-type response (e.g. lower volume of production). Both the raw data (raw) and seasonally adjusted (s.a.) data are given for the balance. The seasonally adjusted value for the neutral components (e.g. expected production about the same) is calculated by subtracting the sum of the seasonally adjusted values of the other two components from 100.

Chart 1

Balance of Opinion for Expected Volume of Production During Next Three Months Compared with Last Three Months

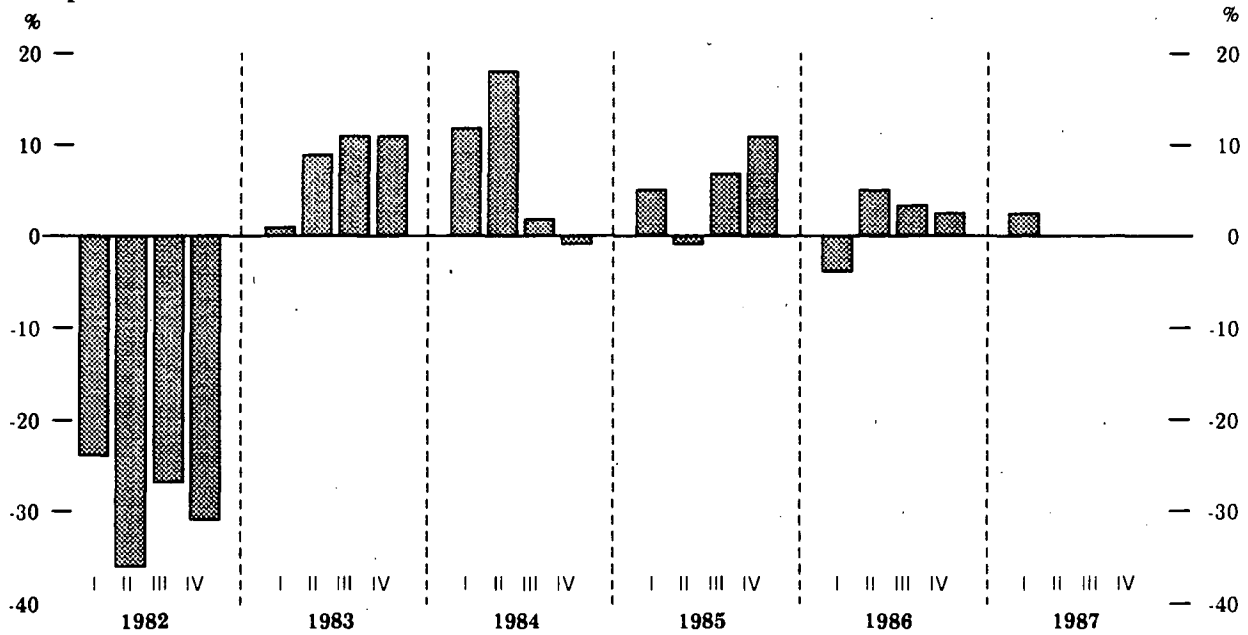
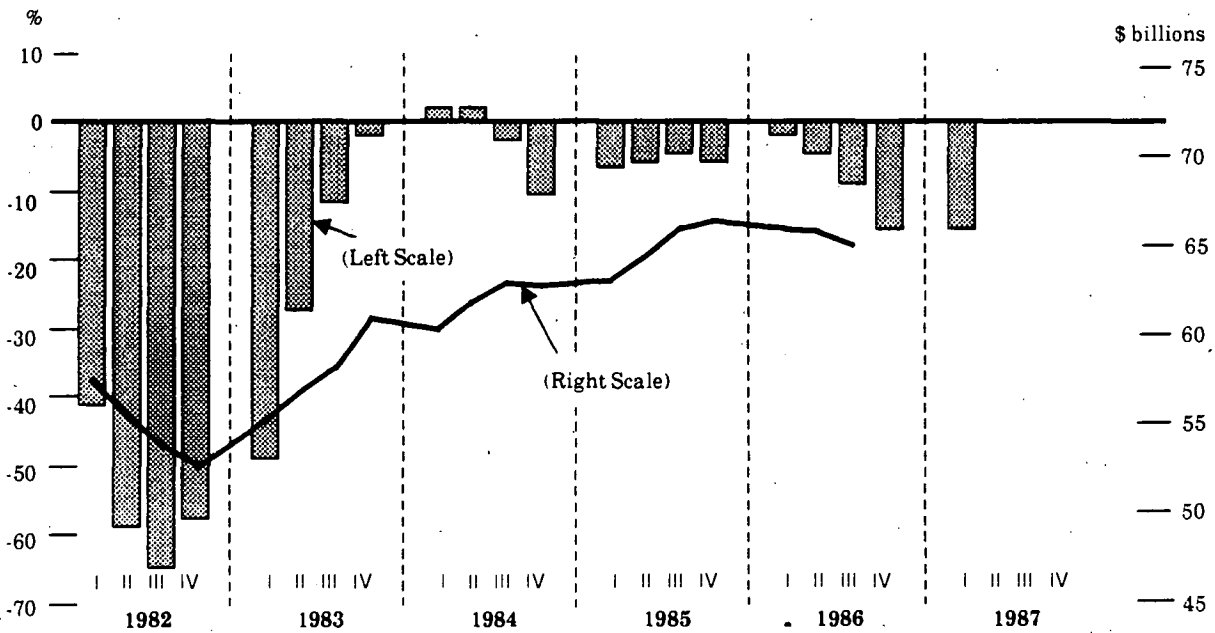


Chart 2

Comparison Between Balance of Opinion For Present Backlog of Unfilled Orders (Left Scale) and The Real Gross Domestic Product At Factor Cost in 1981 Prices (Right Scale) For All Manufacturing Industries, Adjusted For Seasonal Variation



Construction Building Material Price Index: Residential

December 1986

The price index for residential construction building materials (1981 = 100) rose to 131.2 in December, up 0.1% from the previous month and an increase of 7.6% from a year earlier.

Between November and December 1986, the main price increases were for plywood and carpets, which more than offset decreases recorded for particleboard and polyethylene film sheets.

Between December 1985 and December 1986, prices for structural materials rose 12.6%, due primarily to increases for lumber and roof trusses. This was followed by an increase in prices of architectural materials

(6.7%) due mainly to gypsum wallboard, plywood and metal roofing and siding. Increases were also noted for mechanical (5.1%) and electrical materials (2.5%).

Available on CANSIM: matrix 423.

Order the fourth quarter 1986 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), available in March. Contact: the Information Service (613-990-9606/7), Prices Division.

Construction Building Material Price Indexes: Residential

December 1986

(1981 = 100)

	Dec. '86	Nov. '86	Dec. '85	% Change	
				Dec. '86/ Nov. '86	Dec. '86/ Dec. '85
Total materials	131.2	131.1	121.9	0.1	7.6
Architectural materials	131.4	131.1	123.1	0.2	6.7
Structural materials	134.8	135.3	119.7	-0.4	12.6
Mechanical materials	128.6	128.6	122.4	-	5.1
Electrical materials	118.5	118.5	115.6	-	2.5

- Nil or zero.

**Construction Building Material
Price Index: Non-residential**
December 1986

The non-residential construction building material price index showed no change in December from the previous month and was 5.0% higher than the year-earlier level of 121.0.

Between November and December 1986, there were several minor changes. The most significant decreases were for polyethylene film sheets and particleboard, which offset increases in prices for plywood and carpets.

Between December 1985 and December 1986, prices for structural materials increased 6.8%; architectural materials 4.8%; mechanical materials 4.5% and electrical materials 2.5%. Price increases which had a notable impact on the total index were observed for ready-mix concrete, concrete bricks and blocks and metal roofing and siding.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 423.

Order the fourth quarter 1986 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), available in March. Contact: the Information Service (613-990-9606/7), Prices Division.

Construction Building Material Price Indexes: Non-residential
December 1986
(1981=100)

	Dec. '86	Nov. '86	Dec. '85	% Change	
				Dec. '86/ Nov. '86	Dec. '86/ Dec. '85
Total materials	127.0	127.0	121.0	-	5.0
Architectural material	128.8	128.7	122.9	0.1	4.8
Structural materials	126.3	126.5	118.3	-0.2	6.8
Mechanical materials	128.9	128.6	123.4	0.2	4.5
Electrical materials	119.6	119.6	116.7	-	2.5

- Nil or zero.

Farm Input Price Index

Fourth Quarter 1986

The Farm Input Price Index (1981=100) for Canada for the fourth quarter of 1986 stood at a preliminary level of 108.7, down 0.5% from the previous quarter but up 2.4% from a year earlier.

The largest contribution to the quarterly movement came from a 1.2% decrease in the animal production index, as a consequence of lower prices for feed (-4.3%) and for piglets (-6.8%). Also declining were the indexes for machinery and motor vehicles (-0.1%), crop production (-1.9%) and for interest (-2.3%). An offsetting effect came from the index for building and fencing which increased by 1.2%.

On a year-over-year basis, it was also the animal production index (up 8.7%) which contributed principally to the total change. While prices rose strongly for calves (12.3%) and piglets (33.6%), a decline of 3.4% in feed

prices partially offset these increases. The largest downward impact on the total came from a decrease of 2.7% in the machinery and motor vehicles index, due to a 20.1% decline in petroleum products. The interest index was down by 2.4%.

Regionally, the Eastern Canada total index was down 0.8% from the third quarter of 1986 but still stood 3.0% above its year-earlier level. In Western Canada, the total index was down 0.4% from the third quarter but was up 2.0% over the year.

(see table on page 8)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1900-1909.

Order the fourth quarter 1986 issue of *Farm Input Price Indexes* (62-004, \$10/\$40), available at the end of February. Contact: the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-990-9606/7), Prices Division.

Farm Input Price Indexes
(1981 = 100)

	4 th Quarter 1986	3 rd Quarter 1986	4 th Quarter 1985	% Change	
				4 th Quarter 1986/	4 th Quarter 1986/
				3 rd Quarter 1986	4 th Quarter 1985
Eastern Canada					
Total farm input ^p	108.2	109.1	105.0	-0.8	3.0
Building and fencing	134.3	132.4	127.5	1.4	5.3
Machinery and motor vehicles	116.3	117.0	119.5	-0.6	-2.7
Crop production	105.0	104.3	104.8	0.7	0.2
Animal production	105.5	107.9	97.9	-2.2	7.8
Supplies and services	126.9	126.1	126.5	0.6	0.3
Hired farm labour	131.0	129.3	125.3	1.3	4.5
Property taxes ^p	129.1	129.1	122.1	0.0	5.7
Interest ^p	74.9	76.8	76.9	-2.5	-2.6
Farm rent ^p	78.5	78.5	76.1	0.0	3.2
Western Canada					
Total farm input ^p	109.1	109.5	107.0	-0.4	2.0
Building and fencing	125.5	124.0	117.8	1.2	6.5
Machinery and motor vehicles	115.9	115.8	119.2	0.1	-2.8
Crop production	100.7	102.8	101.1	-2.0	-0.4
Animal production	112.3	112.7	102.6	-0.4	9.5
Supplies and services	122.7	121.9	122.7	0.7	0.0
Hired farm labour	121.7	121.9	119.7	-0.2	1.7
Property taxes ^p	143.7	143.7	139.1	0.0	3.3
Interest ^p	76.9	78.5	78.6	-2.0	-2.2
Farm rent ^p	100.7	100.7	99.5	0.0	1.2
Canada					
Total farm input ^p	108.7	109.3	106.2	-0.5	2.4
Building and fencing	130.0	128.4	122.8	1.2	5.9
Machinery and motor vehicles	116.1	116.2	119.3	-0.1	-2.7
Crop production	102.3	103.3	102.5	-1.0	-0.2
Animal production	108.9	110.2	100.2	-1.2	8.7
Supplies and services	124.6	123.8	124.5	0.6	0.1
Hired farm labour	127.0	126.1	122.9	0.7	3.3
Property taxes ^p	138.6	138.6	133.2	0.0	4.1
Interest ^p	76.0	77.8	77.9	-2.3	-2.4
Farm rent ^p	95.7	95.7	94.2	0.0	1.6

^p Preliminary figures.

Data Availability Announcements

Financial Statistics of Education 1982-83

In 1982-83, total expenditures on education in Canada increased 11.5%, reaching \$28.3 billion. This was the first time since 1979-80 in which the annual rate of increase did not exceed that of the previous year. Annual growth started to accelerate in 1979-80 (9.9%) and peaked in 1981-82 (14.3%). During the same period, the Consumer Price Index had a similar pattern to that of education expenditures but had a growth rate averaging approximately one percentage point less. Meanwhile, full-time student enrolment dropped 1.6% to 5.7 million.

Over the last 10 years, Canadian incomes have risen faster than education spending. For example, in 1973-74, expenditures as a proportion of personal income were 9.8%, compared to 8.9% in 1982-83. Estimates indicate that this proportion continued to decrease, falling to 8.4% by 1985-86. Also, the share of total governmental expenditures allocated to education declined to 14.6% in 1982-83 from a high of 22.1% in 1970-71.

Quebec and Nova Scotia posted the smallest percentage increases in education spending in 1982-83. Increases in all other provinces were approximately at, or above, the national average (11.5%) with Alberta recording the highest (21.4%). Provincial growth rates were as follows: Newfoundland 11.5%; Prince Edward Island 12.0%; Nova Scotia 6.1%; New Brunswick 12.7%; Quebec 4.8%; Ontario 11.4%; Manitoba 15.9%; Saskatchewan 15.0%; Alberta 21.4% and British Columbia 16.7%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 00590103, 00590203, 00590206 and 00590208.

Order *Financial Statistics of Education*, 1982-83 (81-208, \$35), now available. Contact: François Gendron (613-991-1509), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

Enumeration Area Reference Maps 1986 Census of Canada

Several series of reference maps showing the boundaries of enumeration areas of the 1986 Census of Canada are now available. Users of data from the 1986 Census will find these maps useful if they wish to relate census data to the geographic area known as the enumeration area.

An enumeration area refers to the area canvassed by one census representative and ranges in size from a minimum of about 125 households in a rural area to a maximum of about 375 households in urban areas. Enumeration areas form the building blocks of all geographic areas for which census data are produced. They respect the boundaries of all such areas.

The map series available are:

The G86-12: Rural Enumeration Areas Series which shows the boundaries of enumeration areas, census divisions, census subdivisions and federal electoral districts in the rural areas of Canada.

The G86-13: Census Tracts/Enumeration Areas Series shows boundaries of census tracts and enumeration areas, street names, block numbers and identifies other physical features in urban centres of 50,000 population and over.

The G86-14: Urban Enumeration Areas Series shows the boundaries of enumeration areas located in small urban centres of less than 50,000 population.

The G86-18: Federal Electoral Districts/Enumeration Area Series provides one federal electoral district per map sheet, showing the boundaries of census divisions, census subdivisions, census tracts, and enumeration areas.

Further information on the definitions of geographic units used in the 1986 Census can be found in the *1986 Census Dictionary* (99-901E).

Reference maps may be ordered from the regional offices of Statistics Canada or Central Inquiries Services at a cost of \$5 each on ozalid paper, \$10 each on mylar, and \$15 each on opaque film.

Publications Released

Cereals and Oilseeds Review,
November 1986.

Catalogue number 22-007

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

**Production and Stocks of Eggs
and Poultry, November 1986.**

Catalogue number 23-003

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

Air Charter Statistics, 1985.

Catalogue number 51-207

(Canada: \$32; Other Countries: \$33).

Labour Force Survey, January 1987.

Catalogue number 71-001P

(Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60).

Available February 6, 1987 at 7:00 a.m.

Financial Statistics of Education, 1982-83.

Catalogue number 81-208

(Canada: \$35; Other Countries: \$36).

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Local calls: 753-4888
If outside the local calling area,
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