

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday April 10, 1987

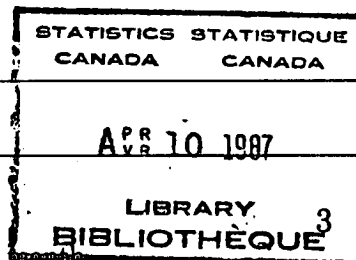
Major Releases

Labour Force Survey, March 1987

- Employment increased for the eighth consecutive month.

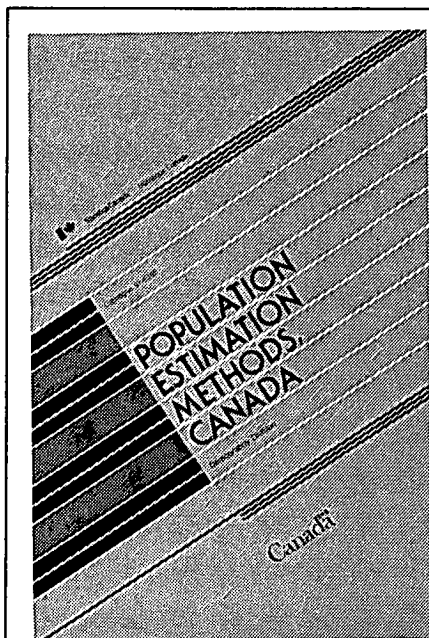
Farm Product Price Index, February 1987

- Farm prices were down 0.7% from January.



6

(continued on page 2)



Population Estimation Methods, Canada

This new publication brings together the methods used by Statistics Canada to produce a wide range of population estimates. These estimates have applications in the areas of planning, marketing and programme evaluation in both the public and private sectors.

Topics covered in the publication include: postcensal estimates of the total population; postcensal population estimates by sex, age and marital status; intercensal estimates; internal migration; emigration; local area population and family estimates.

Order *Population Estimation Methods, Canada* (91-528E, \$25), now available from Publication Sales (613-993-7276). Contact Lawrence Wise (613-991-2350).



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Major Releases — Concluded

Construction Building Material Price Index: Residential, February 1987	8
• The index decreased 0.5% from January but was up 4.8% from February 1986.	
Construction Building Material Price Index: Non-residential, February 1987	9
• The index remained unchanged from January but stood 3.1% higher than the year-earlier level.	

Data Availability Announcements

Housing Starts, February 1987	10
Steel Ingots and Pig Iron, March 1987	10
Railway Carloadings, 10 Days Ending March 31, 1987	10
Business Employment: Demographic and Earnings Profile, 1984	11
Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, February 1987	11
1985 Census of Manufactures:	
- Wine Industry	11
- Plastic Bag Industry	11
- Women's Coat and Jacket Industry	11
- Women's Clothing Contractors Industry	12
- Motor Vehicle Steering and Suspension Industry	12
- Structural Concrete Products Industry	12
- Pharmaceutical and Medicine Industry	12

Publications Released	13
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Major Release Dates, April 13-April 16	14
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Major Releases

Labour Force Survey

March 1987

Overview

Estimates from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey for March 1987 indicate a continuation of the modest but steady growth in employment noted since last August. Growth in the labour force continued to restrict the decrease in the number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate held at 9.6 despite an employment increase of 23,000.

Employment

For the week ending March 21, 1987, the seasonally adjusted level of employment was estimated at 11,800,000 – up 23,000 from February. This was the eighth consecutive month of growth in employment, which has risen 244,000 since July 1986.

- Employment declined by 13,000 among persons aged 15 to 24, falling to 2,415,000. However, it increased by 36,000 among persons aged 25 and over, rising to 9,385,000. This is the eighth consecutive month of growth for this age group, totalling gains of 231,000 since July 1986.
- Full-time employment advanced by 75,000 – the second month of strong growth. Part-time employment decreased by 30,000.
- Employment increased by 11,000 in the transportation, communications and other utilities sector, 7,000 in finance, insurance and real estate, and 18,000 in public administration. It declined by 16,000 in agriculture and 9,000 in the other primary industries.
- The seasonally adjusted level of employment rose by an estimated 30,000 in Quebec and 11,000 in Alberta. There was little or no change in the level for the other provinces.

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployment for March 1987 was 1,254,000, remaining virtually unchanged from the January and February levels. The unemployment rate held at 9.6.

- The level of unemployment dropped by 9,000 among males aged 25 and older, while it rose slightly in the other major age and sex categories.
- Unemployment rose by 4,000 in Newfoundland, 8,000 in Ontario and 5,000 in British Columbia. It fell by 9,000 in Alberta while there was little or no change noted for the other provinces.
- The unemployment rate among young people aged 15 to 24 was estimated at 14.8, the second monthly increase of 0.2. The rate remained at 8.2 among adults.
- The unemployment rate rose by 1.7 in Newfoundland (20.1), 0.4 in New Brunswick (13.5), 0.1 in Ontario (6.9), 0.7 in Manitoba (7.4) and 0.3 in British Columbia (13.6). It declined by 0.1 in Prince Edward Island (14.4) and Nova Scotia (14.5), 0.3 in Quebec (10.6), 0.1 in Saskatchewan (7.1) and 0.7 in Alberta (10.2).

Participation Rate and Employment/Population Ratio

The participation rate rose by 0.1, reaching once again the January 1986 record of 66.1. The employment/population ratio was unchanged at 59.7.

- The participation rate increased by 0.1 among persons aged 25 and older and was unchanged for persons aged 15 to 24.
- An increase of 0.1 in the employment/population ratio for adults offset the decline of 0.2 noted for young people.

(continued on page 4)

Changes Since March 1986 (Unadjusted Estimates)

- Employment increased by 207,000 (1.8%), rising to 11,508,000.
- Full-time employment increased by 2.4%, while the decrease in the number of males in part-time jobs resulted in an overall decrease of 1% for part-time employment.
- Employment fell by 1.6% in the goods-producing industries, with non-agricultural primary industries affected the most (-7.6%).
- A 3.2% increase in employment in service-producing industries was led by a rise of 5.5% in community, business and personal services.
- The estimated number of unemployed persons increased by 17,000 (+1.2%), rising to 1,397,000.
- The unemployment rate decreased by 0.1, edging down to 10.8.
- The participation rate and the employment/population ratio both increased by 0.4, rising to 65.3 and 58.3, respectively.

Supplementary Survey Data

Each March since 1979, Statistics Canada has conducted a supplement to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) to identify the number and characteristics of persons who say that they want work but are not actively seeking it. The survey looks at why these persons are not looking for work and also at their recent labour market experiences, their future job expectations, and willingness to move if a suitable job were offered.

The results of this annual survey complement data from the monthly LFS on persons who have looked for work in the previous six months but who, for various reasons, did not look for work during the past four weeks. The March survey covers a much broader group, however, since it refers to all persons who report wanting a job, whether or not they have ever actively looked for one.

Persons who report wanting a job may not be actively seeking one for a variety of reasons. These reasons fall into two general categories – those which are labour market-related (awaiting recall to a former job, awaiting replies to earlier job search efforts, or a belief that no suitable jobs are available) and personal and other reasons (illness or disability, personal or family responsibilities, going to school, etc.).

The March 1987 results showed that an estimated 216,000 persons reported that they wanted work but were not seeking it for labour market-related reasons. This compares to 245,000 in March 1986 and a peak of 335,000 in March 1983.

An additional 143,000 persons reported that they wanted a job but remained outside of the labour force last month because of personal and other reasons unrelated to labour market conditions. The corresponding March 1986 estimate was 151,000.

An analysis of March survey results spanning several years will appear in the April issue of *The Labour Force*, to be released in the week of May 18, 1987. Entitled "Persons on the Margins of the Labour Force", this study analyzes the demographic characteristics of persons wanting but not seeking work, drawing out similarities and differences with persons in the labour force. Their recent employment experiences, the strength of their attachment to the job market and the kinds of work they would like to have are among the issues examined.

A set of standard tabulations from the March supplementary survey (1979-1987) will be available next week. To obtain a copy, contact: Ernest Akyeampong, Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division, Statistics Canada, 5th Floor, Jean Talon Building, Ottawa, K1A 0T6 (613-991-4624).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2074-2075, 2078-2099, 2101-2107 and table 00799999.

Order the March 1987 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, \$20/\$200), available the third week of April. Contact Ken Bennett (613-991-4720), Household Surveys Division. For summary information, available on the day of release, order *Labour Force Information* (71-001P, \$5/\$50).

Labour Force Characteristics, Canada

	March 1987	February 1987	March 1986
Seasonally adjusted data			
Labour force ('000)	13,054	13,029	12,837
Employment ('000)	11,800	11,777	11,599
Unemployment ('000)	1,254	1,252	1,238
Unemployment rate (%)	9.6	9.6	9.6
Participation rate (%)	66.1	66.0	65.7
Employment/population ratio (%)	59.7	59.7	59.4
Unadjusted data			
Labour force ('000)	12,906	12,761	12,681
Employment ('000)	11,508	11,426	11,301
Unemployment ('000)	1,397	1,335	1,380
Unemployment rate (%)	10.8	10.5	10.9
Participation rate (%)	65.3	64.7	64.9
Employment/population ratio (%)	58.3	57.9	57.9

Farm Product Price Index

February 1987

The Farm Product Price Index (1981 = 100) for Canada stood at 88.1 in February, down 0.7% from the revised January level of 88.7. This was the third consecutive decrease in the index, following three monthly increases. The February 1987 index stood 5.8% lower than the year-earlier level of 93.5.

The percentage changes in the index between January and February 1987 for the provinces were as follows:

• Newfoundland	0.0%;
• Prince Edward Island	4.6%;
• Nova Scotia	-0.9%;
• New Brunswick	0.9%;
• Quebec	0.6%;
• Ontario	-0.5%;
• Manitoba	-1.5%;
• Saskatchewan	-1.1%;
• Alberta	-1.7%;
• British Columbia	-0.8%;
• Canada	-0.7%.

Crops

The crops index decreased 2.5% in February 1987 and stood at 63.8. The index has been relatively steady since August 1986 but remains 19.8% below its February 1986 level. Cereal and oilseed prices were lower in February 1987 while potato prices rose.

- Lower initial prices for wheat, oats and barley delivered to the Canadian Wheat Board, which came into effect in August 1986, were largely responsible for the 27.0% year-over-year drop in the cereals index. The cereals index stood at 53.3 in February 1987, a 2.4% decrease from the previous month. Since August 1986, the index has been in the range set in July 1978. A larger proportion of low quality

wheat was delivered to the Canadian Wheat Board in February, resulting in lower prices for this crop.

- The oilseeds index decreased 7.6% in February 1987 to a level of 68.0. The index has fallen 28.4% during the past 12 months and is now at about the same level as in April 1976. In February, prices dropped for canola, flaxseed and soybeans. Reports of a larger than anticipated soybean crop in Brazil and a proposed levy on oilseeds and oilseed products produced in or imported into the E.E.C. were associated with the decline in oilseed prices.
- The potato index rose 1.3% in February 1987 to 93.3 due to higher prices in several provinces for table, seed and processing potatoes. The index has risen 72.8% from the relatively low level set in February 1986.

Livestock and Animal Products

The total livestock and animal products index increased 0.3% in February 1987 to 110.5. Hog prices were up while those for cattle, poultry, eggs and milk showed little change. With the increase in February 1987, the livestock and animal products index stood 3.9% above its year-earlier level.

- Hog prices rose 1.9% in February 1987 after falling almost 20% during the previous two months. The hog index, at 108.0, was 4.7% above the year-earlier level.
- The poultry index fell 0.8% in February 1987 due to a higher percentage of lower valued stewing hens slaughtered and a decrease in prices received by producers in some provinces for broiler and roaster chickens.

User Note

The index is designed to measure (as closely as can be determined) 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 1985 are final prices. Beginning in August 1985, 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.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 176.

Order the February issue of *Farm Product Price Index* (62-003, \$6/\$60), scheduled for release May 5. Contact Paul Murray (613-991-2437), Farm Income and Prices Section, Agriculture/Natural Resources Division.

Construction Building Material Price Index: Residential

February 1987

The price index for residential construction building materials (1981=100) declined to 131.1 in February, down 0.5% from the revised figures for the previous month but up 4.8% from a year earlier.

Between January and February 1987, price decreases were recorded for all types of plywood, which more than offset small increases for gypsum wallboard, wooden doors and polyethylene film sheets.

On a year-over-year basis, prices for architectural materials rose 5.6% from February 1986, due mainly to increases for gypsum wall-

board, metal roofing and siding, windows and sash and some types of plywood. This was followed by an increase in prices for structural materials of 5.4%, due primarily to roof trusses and concrete bricks and blocks. Prices for electrical materials rose 2.4% while prices for mechanical materials were up 0.4% from the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 423.

Order the first quarter 1987 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), available in June. Contact: the Information Service (613-990-9607), Prices Division.

Construction Building Material Price Indexes: Residential

February 1987

(1981=100)

	Feb. '87	Jan. '87	Feb. '86	% Change	
				Feb. '87/ Jan. '87	Feb. '87/ Feb. '86
Total materials	131.1	131.7	125.1	-0.5	4.8
Architectural materials	132.6	133.6	125.6	-0.7	5.6
Structural materials	132.2	132.1	125.4	0.1	5.4
Mechanical materials	125.1	124.8	124.6	0.2	0.4
Electrical materials	120.4	119.9	117.6	0.4	2.4

Construction Building Material Price Index: Non-residential February 1987

The non-residential construction building material price index (1981=100) showed no change in February from the revised previous month's index of 127.1, but was 3.1% higher than the year-earlier level of 123.3.

Between January and February 1987, there were several minor price changes. The most significant decreases were for all types of plywood which offset increases for polyethylene film sheets, wooden doors and ready-mix concrete.

Between February 1986 and February 1987, prices for architectural materials increased 4.9%; structural materials 3.3%; and electrical materials 3.1%. Mechanical materials showed no change. Price increases which had a notable impact on the total index were for metal roofing and siding, ready-mix concrete and concrete bricks and blocks.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 423.

Order the first quarter 1987 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), available in June. Contact the Information Service (613-990-9607), Prices Division.

Construction Building Material Price Indexes: Non-residential February 1987 (1981=100)

	Feb. '87	Jan. '87	Feb. '86	% Change	
				Feb. '87/ Jan. '87	Feb. '87/ Feb. '86
Total materials	127.1	127.1	123.3	-	3.1
Architectural material	130.4	130.7	124.3	-0.2	4.9
Structural materials	126.7	126.4	122.6	0.2	3.3
Mechanical materials	125.8	125.5	125.8	0.2	-
Electrical materials	121.2	120.8	117.6	0.3	3.1

- Nil or zero.

Data Availability Announcements

Housing Starts

February 1987

Highlights

Total (all areas)

- Seasonally adjusted at annual rates, February housing starts in Canada totalled 206,000 units, down from 236,000 in January.
- In spite of this 12.7% decline, housing activity in the first two months of 1987 was up 33% from the same period last year.

Urban centres with populations of 10,000 and over

- In urban centres, housing starts in both the single and multiple family dwelling sectors dropped 14%.
- On a regional basis, Quebec reported a 50% drop from the January level. In other provinces, decreases were much smaller.
- Compared to February 1986, housing activity increased only in Ontario.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 25 and 29.

Order the February 1987 issue of *Housing Starts and Completions* (64-002, \$15/\$150), scheduled for release the second week of May. Contact P. Pichette (613-990-9689), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

Steel Ingots and Pig Iron

March 1987

Preliminary steel ingot production for March 1987 totalled 1 350 000 tonnes, an increase of 7.4% from 1 256 742 tonnes the previous year.

Year-to-date steel ingot production totalled 3 732 395 tonnes, an increase of 5.3% from 3 545 567 tonnes for the same period the previous year.

Preliminary pig iron production totalled 870 000 tonnes in March, up 6.4% from 817 916 tonnes a year earlier. Year-to-date pig iron production totalled 2 478 771 tonnes, an increase of 7.2% compared to 2 312 130 tonnes for the same period the previous year.

Order the March 1987 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$4/\$40), available the week of June 1. Contact Gerry Barrett (613-991-3515), Industry Division.

Railway Carloadings

10 Days Ending March 31, 1987

Freight tonnages loaded by railways in Canada for the period ending March 31, 1987 totalled 6.5 million tonnes, an increase of 15.2% from the 1986 figure. Loadings increased in the East by 8.6% and were up in the West by 20.6%.

Container-trailer or piggyback tonnages (included above) advanced in the East by 38.9% and increased in the West by 12.7%; there was an over-all national increase of 30.7%.

The year-to-date rail freight loadings totalled 59.8 million tonnes, an increase of 4.5% from the previous year. During the same period, piggyback cars loaded increased 6.3%.

Order the Vol. 3, No. 12 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-005, \$75 a year), scheduled for release the week of April 13. Contact Mamady Kaba (613-990-6154), Surface Transport Section, Transportation Division.

**Business Employment:
Demographic and Earnings Profile
1984**

Tabulations for the demographic and earnings profile of business employment for 1984 are now available. These tables provide data on employment and payroll by province, major industry group, firm employment size, and age and sex of employee.

Contact John Skelton (613-991-3751),
Small Business Statistics Projects Division.

**Pulpwood and Wood Residue
Statistics
February 1987**

Pulpwood receipts amounted to 4 608 201 cubic metres in February 1987, an increase of 5.9% from 4 352 230 cubic metres a year earlier. Receipts of wood residue totalled 4 395 427 cubic metres, up 13.2% from 3 882 869 cubic metres in February 1986.

Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue was reported at 8 003 923 cubic metres, an increase of 5.1% from the 7 614 708 cubic metres reported the previous year. The closing inventory of pulpwood and wood residue totalled 19 578 613 cubic metres, a decrease of 11.1% from 22 027 654 cubic metres a year earlier.

Year-to-date production of pulpwood receipts was 9 195 339 cubic metres, an increase of 12.2% from 8 192 055 cubic metres in February 1986. Receipts of wood residue increased 15.1% to 8 772 192 cubic metres from the year-earlier level of 7 619 504 cubic metres. Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue, at 16 491 601 cubic metres, was up 8.2% from 15 240 543 cubic metres from the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 54.

Order the February 1987 issue of *Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics* (25-001, \$5/\$50), to be released the week of April 20. Contact Jacques Lepage (613-991-3510), Industry Division.

**Wine Industry
1985 Census of Manufactures**

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the wine industry (SIC 1141) totalled \$256.2 million, up 9.0% from \$235.0 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5405 and to be released shortly in catalogue 32-251B 1141. Commodity data for this industry will become available in July.

Contact Brian Preston (613-991-3511),
Industry Division.

**Plastic Bag Industry
1985 Census of Manufactures**

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the plastic bag industry (SIC 1691) totalled \$546.9 million, up 8.4% from \$504.4 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5417 and to be released shortly in catalogue 33-250B 1691. Commodity data for this industry will become available in July.

Contact T. Raj Sehdev (613-991-3513),
Industry Division.

**Women's Coat and Jacket Industry
1985 Census of Manufactures**

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the women's coat and jacket industry (SIC 2441) totalled \$244.7 million, down 6.3% from \$261.2 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5445 and to be released shortly in catalogue 34-252B 2441. Commodity data for this industry will become available in July.

Contact Carla Mouradian (613-990-9834),
Industry Division.

Women's Clothing Contractors Industry

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the women's clothing contractors industry (SIC 2445) totalled \$267.5 million, up 23.0% from \$217.6 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5449 and to be released shortly in catalogue 34-252B 2445. Commodity data for this industry will become available in July.

Contact Carla Mouradian (613-990-9834), Industry Division.

Structural Concrete Products Industry

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the structural concrete products industry (SIC 3542) totalled \$232.3 million, up 18.0% from \$196.9 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 6853 and to be released shortly in catalogue 44-250B 3542. Commodity data for this industry will become available in July.

Contact Sharon M. Boyer (613-991-3520), Industry Division.

Motor Vehicle Steering and Suspension Industry

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the motor vehicle steering and suspension industry (SIC 3254) totalled \$666.8 million, up 5.2% from \$633.5 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5558 and to be released shortly in catalogue 42-251B 3254. Commodity data for this industry will become available in July.

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

Pharmaceutical and Medicine Industry

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the pharmaceutical and medicine industry (SIC 3741) totalled \$2,229.8 million, up 21.2% from \$1,839.8 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 6876 and to be released shortly in catalogue 46-250B 3741. Commodity data for this industry will become available in July.

Contact T. Raj Sehdev (613-991-3513), Industry Division.

Publications Released

Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics,
December 1986. Catalogue number 63-011
(Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60).

Population Estimation Methods, Canada.
Catalogue number 91-528E
(Canada: \$25; Other Countries: \$26.50).

**Summary of Canadian International
Trade, January 1987.**
Catalogue number 65-001
(Canada: \$15/\$150; Other Countries:
\$16/\$160).

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Please enclose cheque or money order payable to the Receiver General for Canada/Publications and provide full information on publications required (catalogue number, title, issue).

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Major Release Dates: Week of April 13-16

(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
April		
13	Canadian Composite Leading Indicator	January 1987
15	Sales of Refined Petroleum Products	February 1987
16	The Consumer Price Index	March 1987
16-21	Retail Trade	February 1987