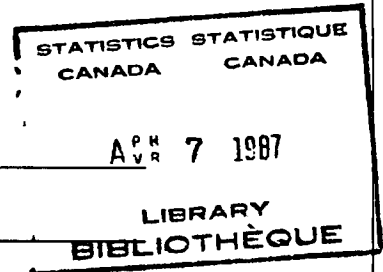


The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, April 7, 1987



Major Releases

Aggregate Productivity Measures and Unit Labour Cost, 1986

2

- Output per person-hour for the business sector industries showed an overall increase of 2.3% in 1986 but a decline of 0.5% was recorded in the manufacturing industries.

Building Permits, January 1987

4

- The estimated value of building permits rose 18.1% from December.

Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, February 1987

6

- Overseas tourists visited Canada in record numbers for the tenth consecutive month.

New Housing Price Index, February 1987

7

- New housing prices continued to move upward, rising 1.7% from January and 12.5% from a year earlier.

Publications Released

9



Statistics
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Major Releases

Aggregate Productivity Measures and Unit Labour Cost

1986 (Preliminary Estimates)

Preliminary estimates of output per person-hour for the business sector industries showed an increase of 2.3% in 1986 following increases of 0.6% in 1985 and 2.4% in 1984. Output per person-hour in manufacturing industries declined 0.5% in 1986 after increases of 2.2% in 1985 and 3.1% in 1984.

The year 1986 was the fourth year of recovery after a very marked drop of output and labour input in 1982. The growth of productivity in this business cycle for business sector and manufacturing industries is very similar to the growth of productivity in the previous business cycle (i.e. for the period 1974 to 1979). However, it is low when compared to all other postwar business cycles.

Unit labour cost increased 1.5% in business sector industries and 3.8% in manufacturing industries in 1986. The better performance of the former in controlling unit labour cost stemmed essentially from higher productivity gains since compensation per person-hour increased 3.8% in business sector industries and 3.3% in manufacturing industries.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 7916-7938.

(continued on page 3)

User Note

Data users should note that with this release the productivity and unit labour cost measures incorporate the following statistical changes:

- The output and input data for 1981 and onwards are on a 1980 standard industrial classification basis and all output data are expressed in 1981 prices.
- The previous data on productivity and unit labour cost were for the commercial sector of the economy. The classification into commercial or non-commercial was done using industry as a unit. In the present scheme of sectoring, establishment is used as a unit to classify industries into business or non-business. Productivity and unit labour cost data are presented for the business sector. At the aggregate level there is hardly any difference between the two concepts.
- The data in this release incorporate changes due to the SNA historical revision back to 1961. In addition the survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours is used for the first time. The use of employment data from this survey has resulted in a significant revision to the productivity estimates for some aggregations in the years 1983 to 1985. All the data for the years 1982 to 1986 are subject to further revisions (scheduled for release in August).

Order *Aggregate Productivity Measures* (15-204 - formerly catalogue 14-201), scheduled for release in June.

Contact Karnail S. Gill (613-991-3647) or Monique Larose (613-991-3658), Input-Output Division.

Indexes of Labour Productivity and Unit Labour Cost, Canada

1980-1986
(1981 = 100)

	Output	Person hours	Labour compensation	Output per person-hour	Unit labour cost
Business sector industries					
1980	95.9	98.0	86.8	97.9	90.5
1981	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1982	95.0	94.4	105.2	100.6	110.8
1983	98.2	92.1	110.0	106.5	112.0
1984	103.7	95.1	119.1	109.0	114.8
1985	109.1	99.5	128.5	109.7	117.8
1986	112.8	100.6	134.9	112.2	119.6
Annual rate of change (%)					
1961-1986	4.3	1.6	11.1	2.7	6.5
1961-1973	5.5	1.5	9.4	3.9	3.7
1973-1986	3.0	1.1	10.6	1.8	7.4
1981-1986	3.1	0.6	6.4	2.5	3.2
1980-1981	4.3	2.1	15.2	2.2	10.5
1981-1982	-5.0	-5.6	5.2	0.6	10.8
1982-1983	3.4	-2.4	4.6	5.9	1.2
1983-1984	5.7	3.3	8.3	2.4	2.5
1984-1985	5.2	4.6	7.9	0.6	2.6
1985-1986	3.4	1.1	5.0	2.3	1.5
Manufacturing industries					
1980	96.5	101.2	87.9	95.4	91.1
1981	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1982	89.0	91.2	101.0	97.6	113.5
1983	94.0	90.5	106.3	103.9	113.1
1984	100.9	94.2	117.3	107.1	116.2
1985	105.7	96.6	125.3	109.5	118.5
1986	107.5	98.7	132.1	108.9	122.9
Annual rate of change (%)					
1961-1986	3.6	0.6	9.9	3.0	6.1
1961-1973	6.0	1.8	8.6	4.1	2.5
1973-1986	1.4	-0.4	9.6	1.8	8.1
1981-1986	2.8	0.4	6.3	2.3	3.4
1980-1981	3.7	-1.1	13.8	4.9	9.7
1981-1982	-11.0	-8.8	1.0	-2.4	13.5
1982-1983	5.7	-0.7	5.3	6.4	-0.4
1983-1984	7.3	4.1	10.3	3.1	2.8
1984-1985	4.8	2.5	6.8	2.2	1.9
1985-1986	1.6	2.1	5.4	-0.5	3.8

Building Permits

January 1987

(Seasonally adjusted data and filtered indexes)

Summary

The estimated value of building permits issued in Canada in January reached \$2,470.2 million, up 18.1% from \$2,091.7 million in December 1986. The increase reflected gains by both the residential (+16.4%) and the non-residential (+20.6%) sectors.

This estimated Canada data for January is based upon the volume of permits issued in metropolitan areas. The strong rise of building permits in January maintained the upward movement of the construction leading indicator which reached 111.3 in November. The leading indicator has been increasing for more than three years now.

Residential Sector

- The value of residential permits increased 16.4% to \$1,441.3 million in January compared to \$1,238.4 million in December.
- Building permits issued for single-family dwellings rose 8.1% to \$1,022.4 million in January while in the multi-family dwelling sector permits climbed to \$418.9 million, up 43.3% from December.
- The strong increase in the multi-family dwelling sector was attributable to marked increases in Ontario and Quebec.
- The number of dwelling units approved in January was 256,700 units (146,400 single detached and 110,300 multiple dwellings), a jump of 31.7% from December.
- The filtered index of residential permits reached 125.7 in November, up 1.7% from the previous month. This index has remained relatively stable for the last three months.

Non-residential Sector

- The estimated value of non-residential projects registered an important gain (+20.6%) in January to \$1,028.0 million.
- All three components of the sector were responsible for this increase. Totals for January were as follows (with the percentage change from December in parentheses): industrial, \$206.3 million (40.2%); commercial, \$661.7 million (18.0%) and institutional and governmental, \$160.9 million (10.7%).
- The increase recorded in the non-residential sector was widespread across the country except for the Prairies where the level remained stable.

Note to users

In order to improve the timeliness of the information provided, the revised version of *Building Permits* presents a national estimate for January, in addition to the usual preliminary data for December.

This release also includes the *Leading Indicator of Construction Activity* (previously published separately). In order to reduce the number of false signals of the leading indicator, the building permits data for December are excluded in the calculations.

(see charts on page 5)

Available on CANSIM: matrix 80 (level 3, 5 and 9).

Order the December 1986 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$20/\$200), scheduled for release the third week of April. Contact Francine Monette (613-991-2583), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

Chart - 1
Value of Building Permits Issued in Canada

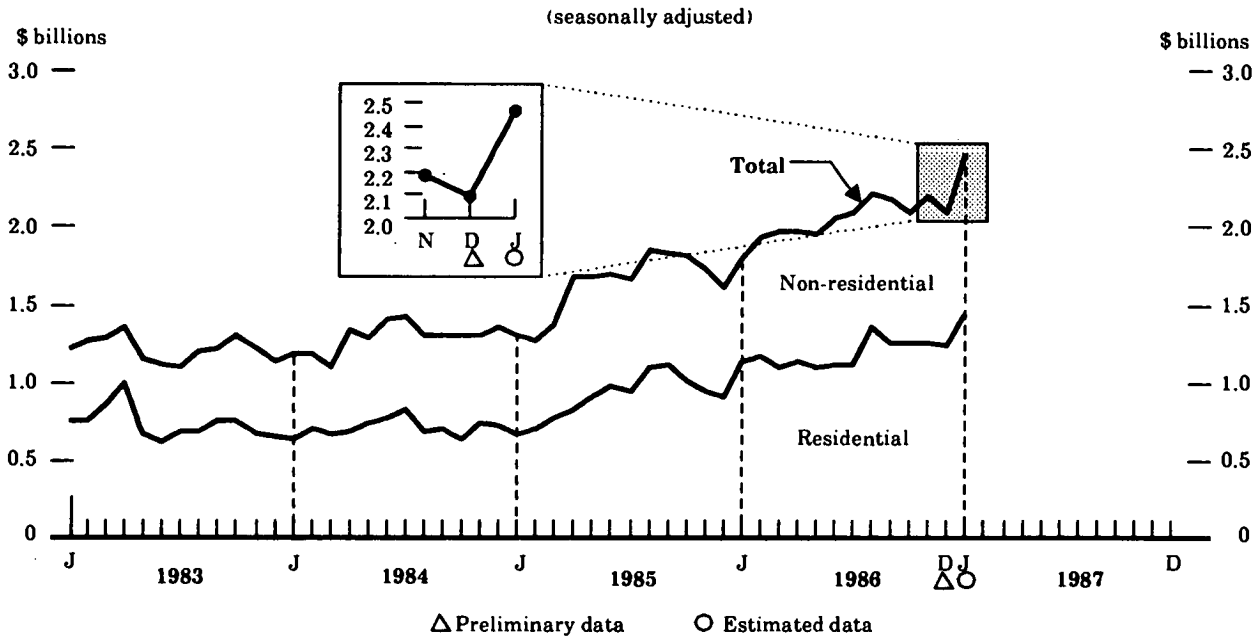


Chart - 2
Dwelling Units Authorized in Canada

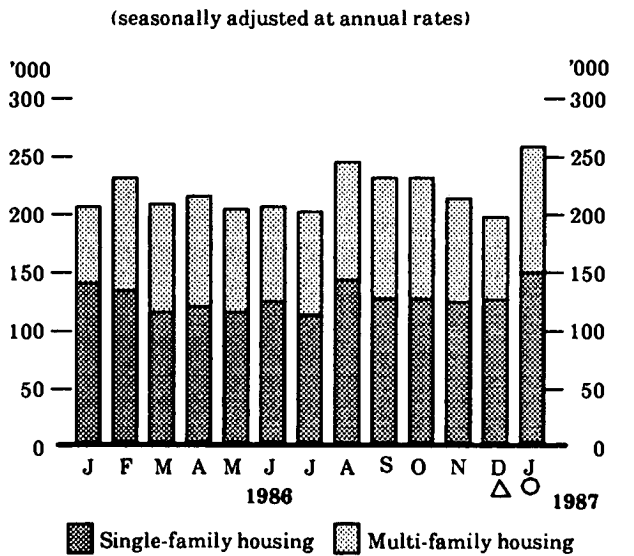
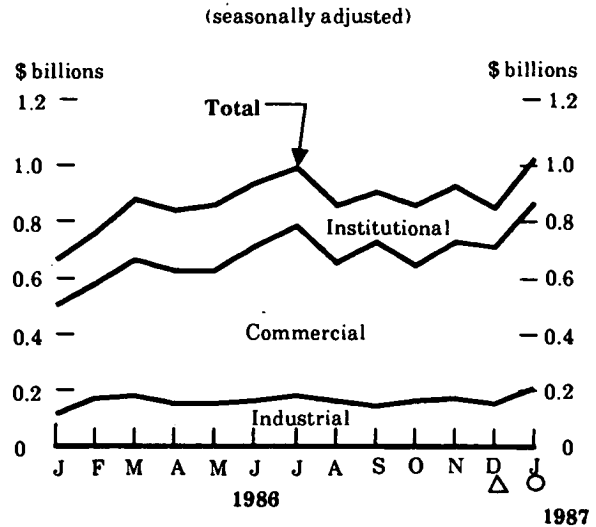


Chart - 3
Value of Non-residential Permits Issued in Canada



Travel Between Canada and Other Countries

February 1987

Long-term Travel

Long-term travel (trips of one or more nights) from both the United States and overseas countries combined increased to over half a million for the first time in the month of February.

Other highlights for February include:

- Tourists from the United States reached a record number for the sixth consecutive month.
- Canadian tourists to both the United States and all other countries achieved their highest level ever for the month of February.

Total Travel

Total foreign visitors to Canada surpassed the 1.8 million mark in the month for the first time since the 1981 record level of 2.4 million.

- Residents of Canada returning from the United States surpassed the 2.6 million level, setting a record for the third consecutive month.

- Canadians returning from all foreign trips outnumbered visitors to this country by over one million.

The accompanying table shows traveller entries and re-entries for February 1987 covering total and long-term traffic as well as percentage changes from 1986.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2661-2694.

Order the February 1987 issue of *International Travel - Advance Information* (66-001P, \$5/\$50), available mid-April. Contact Paul L. Paradis (613-990-8933), International Travel Section, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

International Travel Between Canada and Other Countries

February 1987

Residence of travellers	Total trips				Long-term trips ¹			
	February		January-February		February		January-February	
	Number 1987	% change from '86	Number 1987	% change from '86	Number 1987	% change from '86	Number 1987	% change from '86
Non-residents								
All countries	1,824,910	10.3	3,620,314	8.6	529,395	15.1	986,594	13.2
United States	1,754,525	9.9	3,475,203	8.0	464,456	14.6	853,117	12.3
Other countries	70,385	22.0	145,111	22.8	64,939	18.6	133,477	19.2
Residents of Canada								
All countries	2,886,261	18.7	5,832,985	11.7	904,171	16.5	1,931,120	10.8
United States	2,645,810	18.8	5,293,074	11.0	663,720	15.8	1,391,209	8.1
Other countries	240,451	18.6	539,911	18.2	240,451	18.6	539,911	18.2

¹ Figures for the "United States" include auto and bus one or more nights, and estimated long-term numbers for plane, train, boat and other methods. Figures for "Other Countries" exclude entries by land same day via the U.S.A.

New Housing Price Index

February 1987

The New Housing Price Index (1981=100) for Canada stood at 113.2 in February, up 1.7% from January. This index of Canadian housing contractors' selling prices now stands 12.5% higher than the year-earlier level. Between January and February 1987 the estimated house only index increased 2.2%, while the estimated land only index increased 0.5%.

The highest monthly increase in new housing prices was recorded for Saint John-Moncton (4.4%) where most builders attributed increased prices to higher costs of construction materials and serviced lots, with demand allowing the builders to pass these increases on to the consumer. Toronto, with a monthly increase of 3.1%, continued to show the largest yearly gain of cities surveyed (25.6%).

Generally, substantial monthly and yearly gains continue to prevail in Southwestern Ontario cities. These increases can be attributed, in large part, to higher costs of building materials and labour and increased overhead costs (due to longer construction periods). Demand for houses continues to remain high as a result of favourable interest rates and continuing vigor of the area's economy.

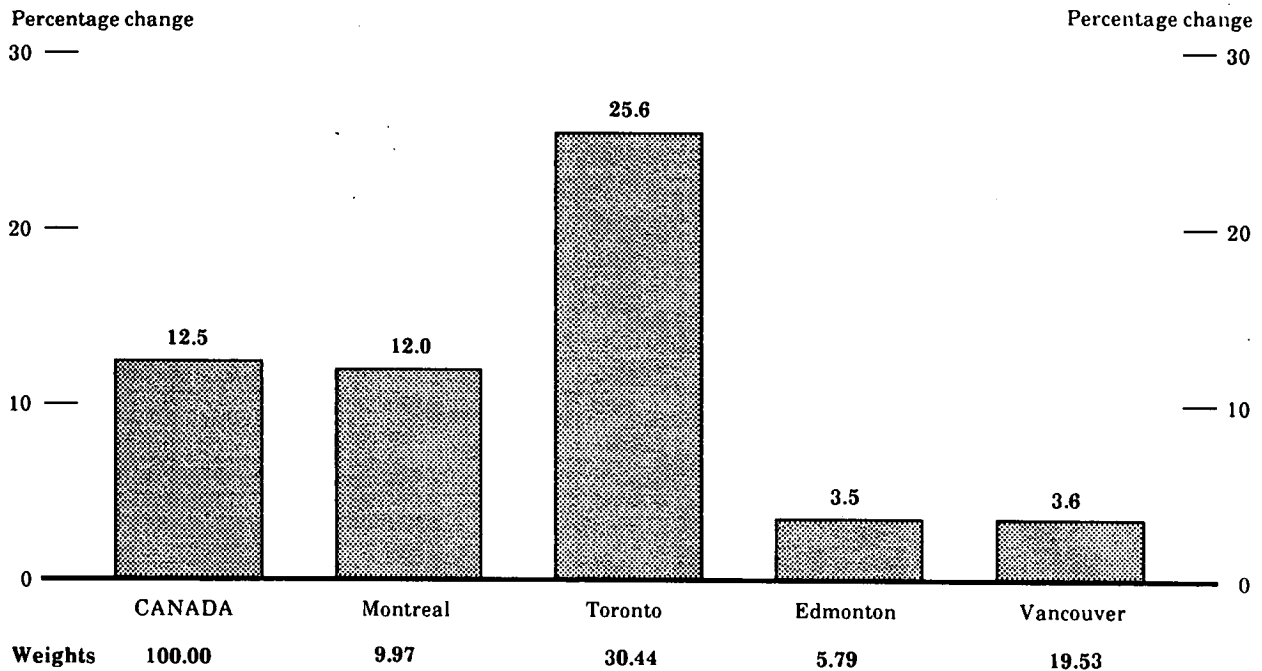
In Quebec, price increases have also been substantial, but outside of central Canada gains have generally been modest.

(see table on page 8)

Available on CANSIM: matrix 198.

Order the first quarter 1987 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), available in June. Contact the Prices Division (613-990-9601).

Percentage Change in New Housing Price Index from Same Month of the Previous Year, Canada and Selected Cities, February 1987



New Housing Price Indexes
(1981 = 100)

	Weights ¹	Feb. 1987	Jan. 1987	Feb. 1986	% change	
					Feb. '87/ Jan. '87	Feb. '87/ Feb. '86
Canada Total²	100.0	113.2	111.3	100.6	1.7	12.5
Canada						
(House only)		120.0	117.4	104.0	2.2	15.4
Canada						
(Land only)		100.6	100.1	95.4	0.5	5.5
St. John's	0.94	112.1	108.9	106.5	2.9	5.3
Halifax	2.42	126.4	125.6	123.7	0.6	2.2
Saint John-Moncton	0.91	133.3	127.7	125.5	4.4	6.2
Quebec City	2.38	141.4	140.2	129.4	0.9	9.3
Montreal	9.97	143.5	141.6	128.1	1.3	12.0
Ottawa-Hull	6.26	133.5	133.1	128.0	0.3	4.3
Toronto	30.44	136.3	132.2	108.5	3.1	25.6
Hamilton	2.75	147.6	147.1	129.8	0.3	13.7
St. Catharines-						
Niagara	1.06	148.7	148.7	133.0	-	11.8
Kitchener-Waterloo	1.65	152.1	151.1	136.1	0.7	11.8
London	1.26	141.4	139.7	120.8	1.2	17.1
Windsor	0.49	119.4	116.3	112.5	2.7	6.1
Winnipeg	2.92	131.9	130.7	123.5	0.9	6.8
Regina	1.10	115.3	115.0	111.8	0.3	3.1
Saskatoon	1.50	108.8	108.6	103.2	0.2	5.4
Calgary	5.29	91.1	91.0	90.1	0.1	1.1
Edmonton	5.79	88.0	87.0	85.0	1.1	3.5
Vancouver	19.53	75.5	74.4	72.9	1.5	3.6
Victoria	2.54	67.4	66.9	72.1	0.7	-6.5

¹ Surveys in Sudbury and Thunder Bay account for the remaining weight and are secured due to insufficient sample size. The survey has been discontinued in Prince George.

² It should be noted that the linking method and annually updated city weights are such that aggregate indexes cannot be considered as the direct average of their respective associated indexes. In exceptional cases, this may cause the level of an aggregate index and its corresponding percentage change figures to fall slightly outside the range of those exhibited by the associated indexes.

- Nil or zero.

Publications Released

Cereals and Oilseeds Review, January 1987.

Catalogue number 22-007

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

Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry, January 1987.

Catalogue number 23-003

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

Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing, Fourth Quarter 1986.

Catalogue number 31-003

(Canada: \$20/\$80; Other Countries: \$21/\$84).

Canadian Statistical Review, March 1987.

Feature articles:

- Gross Domestic Product, Preliminary Annual and Fourth Quarter 1986
- Real Domestic Product at Factor Cost, by Industry, December 1986
- Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments, Fourth Quarter 1986 and Annual 1986

Catalogue number 11-003E

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

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