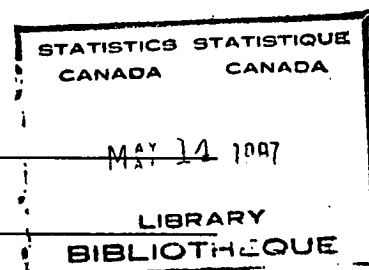


The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 14, 1987



Major Releases

Help-wanted Index, April 1987

2

- The help-wanted index decreased to 106 from the March level of 109.

New Housing Price Index, March 1987

4

- New housing prices continued to move upward, rising 3.0% from February 1987 and 15.1% from a year earlier.

Machinery and Equipment Price Index, First Quarter 1987

5

- Prices for machinery and equipment purchased by Canadian industry registered their first ever quarterly decrease (-1.3%) but were up 0.1% year-over-year.

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Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns, March 1987

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Steel Ingots, Week Ending May 9, 1987

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Construction Type Plywood, March 1987

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Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard, March 1987

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8



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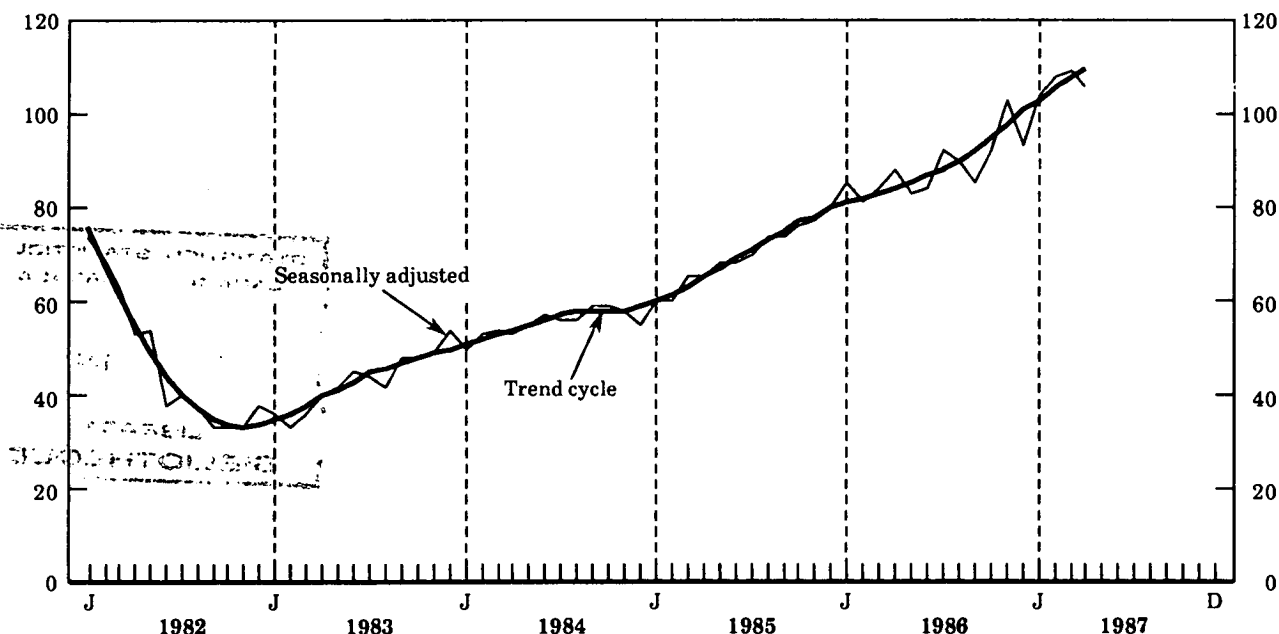
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Major Releases

Help-wanted Index, Canada (1981 = 100)

January 1982 to April 1987



Help-wanted Index

April 1987

The Help-wanted Index monitors the space devoted to help-wanted ads published in 18 major metropolitan area newspapers and serves as an indicator of the demand for labour.

- The seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index for Canada (1981=100) decreased to 106 in April from 109 in March 1987. This is the first decline since December 1986. The Canada index has generally been increasing since February 1983 when it was 33.
- Between March and April 1987, the Help-wanted Index increased in British Columbia (to 44 from 39) where it reached its highest level since March 1982, when it was 49. It decreased in Quebec (to 119 from 128), returning to the level recorded in February 1987. The remaining regions showed little or no change.

- The Canada trend-cycle¹, which has generally been increasing since December 1982, continued its advance in April 1987 (see chart).

¹ The trend cycle provides an indication of the direction in the demand for labour as estimated by the Help-wanted Index. It is calculated by the X-11 ARIMA seasonal adjustment program. Essentially, the calculation involves a 13-term Henderson moving average which smooths irregular fluctuations in the seasonally adjusted data.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 105.

Contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-991-4045) or Horst Stiebert (613-991-4044), Labour Division.

Help-wanted Index, Canada and Regions

(1981 = 100)

Seasonally Adjusted

Year and month	Canada	Atlantic region	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie region	British Columbia
1986						
April	88	98	93	120	45	40
May	83	101	95	107	44	37
June	84	109	87	113	44	41
July	92	117	93	132	43	40
August	90	129	97	118	44	39
September	85	95	98	107	43	41
October	92	144	102	118	42	43
November	103	119	121	128	46	40
December	93	108	97	130	44	37
1987						
January	104	138	105	145	48	39
February	108	142	118	144	47	40
March	109	129	128	140	47	39
April	106	130	119	141	46	44

New Housing Price Index March 1987

The New Housing Price Index (1981 = 100) for Canada stood at 116.6 in March, up 3.0% from February. This index of Canadian housing contractors' selling prices now stands 15.1% higher than the year-earlier level. Between February and March the estimated house only index increased 3.1%, while the estimated land only index increased 3.3%.

Among the cities surveyed, Toronto recorded the largest monthly (6.3%) and yearly (31.7%) increase in new house prices.

Across Canada, of the 19 cities for which new housing price indexes are published, nine exhibited monthly increases larger than 1.0%. Favourable interest rates appear to be having a stimulating effect on sales by making monthly repayments more manageable.

Southwestern Ontario cities, together with Montreal, continue to record yearly gains in excess of 10%.

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).

New Housing Price Indexes March 1987

	Weights ¹ 1987	Mar. '87	Feb. '87	Mar. '86	% Change	
					Mar. '87/ Feb. '87	Mar. '87/ Mar. '86
Canada Total²	100.0	116.6	113.2	101.3	3.0	15.1
Canada						
(House only)		123.7	120.0	104.8	3.1	18.0
Canada						
(Land only)		103.9	100.6	95.7	3.3	8.6
St. John's	0.87	112.4	112.1	106.4	0.3	5.6
Halifax	2.44	126.4	126.4	123.7	-	2.2
Saint John-Moncton	0.98	133.3	133.3	125.6	-	6.1
Quebec City	2.26	141.9	141.4	130.0	0.4	9.2
Montreal	10.22	146.6	143.5	128.7	2.2	13.9
Ottawa-Hull	5.74	133.8	133.5	128.4	0.2	4.2
Toronto	30.35	144.9	136.3	110.0	6.3	31.7
Hamilton	2.98	152.8	147.6	131.3	3.5	16.4
St. Catharines-Niagara	1.30	156.6	148.7	134.5	5.3	16.4
Kitchener-Waterloo	2.08	153.7	152.1	137.3	1.1	11.9
London	1.58	143.3	141.4	122.2	1.3	17.3
Windsor	0.90	119.8	119.4	112.5	0.3	6.5
Winnipeg	3.11	133.9	131.9	124.2	1.5	7.8
Regina	0.90	115.3	115.3	111.8	-	3.1
Saskatoon	1.30	109.2	108.8	104.1	0.4	4.9
Calgary	4.37	92.1	91.1	90.8	1.1	1.4
Edmonton	4.86	88.2	88.0	85.2	0.2	3.5
Vancouver	19.97	76.4	75.5	72.9	1.2	4.8
Victoria	2.79	67.9	67.4	72.3	0.7	-6.1

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.

Machinery and Equipment Price Index

First Quarter 1987

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index (MEPI, 1971=100) by industry of purchase stood at the preliminary level of 307.3 in the first quarter of 1987, down 1.3% from the fourth quarter of 1986. This marks the first time since the introduction of MEPI indexes (1971) that a quarterly decrease has been registered. The domestic prices component rose 0.3% in the latest quarter, while the more heavily weighted imported goods component of the total index dropped 2.8%. In the latter case, a sharp increase during the quarter in the value of the Canadian dollar versus its U.S. counterpart, coupled with the statutory decreases in import tariff rates on January 1, 1987, helped push down the imported goods prices.

The total index rose only 0.1% between the first quarters of 1986 and 1987, down sharply from the 3.0% change registered in the previous quarter. This is the smallest year-over-year change shown since the introduction of MEPI indexes. Prices for domestically produced

machinery and equipment rose 2.4% but imported goods declined 1.9% under the influence of a generally stronger Canadian dollar.

All industry divisions indexes showed a decline in the latest quarter, price movements ranged from a drop of 0.8% for new machinery and equipment purchased by the finance, insurance and real estate industry as well as by the community, business and personal services sector to a drop of 2.0% for goods purchased by the construction industry. On a four-quarter basis, price movements varied from an increase of 2.0% for the community, business and personal services sector to a drop of 1.7% for the mining, quarrying and oil wells sector.

(see table on page 6)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4000, 4002 and 4027.

Order the first quarter 1987 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), available in June. Contact L. Graham (613-990-9615), Prices Division.

Machinery and Equipment Price Indexes
(1971 = 100)

	Relative importance ¹	1st Q. 1987*	4th Q. 1986*	% Change	
				1st Q. 87/ 4th Q. 86	1st Q. 87/ 1st Q. 86
Machinery and equipment price index:	100.0	307.3	311.4	-1.3	0.1
SIC Division:					
1. Agriculture	10.3	291.7	294.5	-1.0	1.8
2. Forestry	0.7	325.2	329.4	-1.3	0.1
3. Fishing	0.6	329.5	331.8	-0.7	0.9
4. Mines, quarries and oil wells	6.5	356.9	363.3	-1.7	-1.7
5. Manufacturing	30.4	340.7	346.7	-1.7	-0.3
6. Construction	4.1	294.1	300.2	-2.0	-1.1
7. Transportation, communication, storage and utilities	25.5	296.4	299.1	-0.9	-0.2
8. Trade	4.8	283.5	287.3	-1.3	1.4
9. Finance, insurance and real estate	1.5	246.3	248.2	-0.8	1.6
10. Community, business and personal services	9.4	241.6	243.6	-0.8	2.0
11. Public administration	6.2	298.9	302.0	-1.0	0.7

* These indexes are preliminary.

¹ Division weights are based on 1971 value of capitalized expenditures on new machinery and equipment by industry (Survey of Private and Public Investment in Canada, 1971).

Data Availability Announcements

Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns March 1987

Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts totalled \$1,066.1 million for March 1987, an increase of 6.1% over the \$1,004.5 million reported for the same period last year.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 52.

Order the March 1987 issue of *Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns* (63-011, \$5/\$50), available in approximately three weeks time. Contact the Services Division (613-991-3494).

Steel Ingots Week Ending May 9, 1987

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian steel ingot production for the week ending May 9, 1987 totalled 294 177 tonnes, a decrease of 4.3% from the preceding week's total of 307 491 tonnes but up 2.1% from the year-earlier level of 288 132 tonnes.

The cumulative total in 1987 was 5 383 253 tonnes, an increase of 3.8% from 5 187 871 tonnes for the same period in 1986.

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

Construction Type Plywood March 1987

Canadian firms produced 199 356 cubic metres (225,286,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) of construction type plywood during March 1987, an increase of 4.8% from the 190 235 cubic metres (214,979,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) produced during March 1986.

January to March 1987 production totalled 560 617 cubic metres (633,537,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis), an increase of 4.5% over the 536 543 cubic metres (606,332,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) produced during the same period in 1986.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).

Order the March 1987 issue of *Construction Type Plywood* (35-001, \$4/\$40), to be released the week of May 25. Contact Jock Dobie (604-666-2671), British Columbia and Yukon Regional Office, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3C9.

Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard March 1987

Canadian firms produced 138 484 cubic metres of waferboard in March 1987, an increase of 7.6% from the 128 649 cubic metres produced a year earlier. Particleboard production reached 113 175 cubic metres in March 1987, up 10.6% from 102 369 cubic metres the previous year. Production of hardboard for March 1987 is confidential. The production of hardboard for March 1986 was 4 452 thousand square metres, basis 3.175 mm (47,920 thousand square feet, basis 1/8-inch).

Production of waferboard during January to March 1987 totalled 354 202 cubic metres, up 0.2% from the 353 447 cubic metres produced during the same period a year earlier. Particleboard production was 303 396 cubic metres, up 3.8% from 292 339 cubic metres in January to March 1986. Production of hardboard for January to March is confidential, while production for January to March 1986 was 13 095 thousand square metres, basis 3.175 mm (140,949 thousand square feet, basis 1/8-inch).

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 8 and 34).

Order the March 1987 issue of *Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard* (36-003, \$4/\$40), to be released the week of May 25. Contact Jacques Lepage (613-991-3510), Industry Division.



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The Daily, May 14, 1987

Publications Released

**Production and Stocks of Eggs
and Poultry, February 1987.**

Catalogue number 23-003

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

Primary Iron and Steel, February 1987.

Catalogue number 41-001

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

Gas Utilities, December 1986.

Catalogue number 55-002

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

Consumer Price Index, April 1987.

Catalogue number 62-001

(Canada: \$8/\$80; Other Countries: \$9/\$90).
Available May 15 at 7:00 a.m.

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