

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, May 15, 1987

Major Releases

Consumer Price Index, April 1987

- The CPI year-to-year increase was 4.5%, up from the 4.2% reported in March.

Business Conditions Survey, Canadian Manufacturing Industries, April 1987

- Opinion on prospects for production over the next three months took a downward swing, reflecting a higher level of concern among Canadian manufacturers about the level of finished product inventory.

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Major Releases

Consumer Price Index April 1987

National Highlights

The all-items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada advanced by 0.4% between March and April, attaining a level of 137.0 (1981 = 100). The April increase equalled those observed for February and March. Six of the seven major component indexes advanced, led by the tobacco and alcohol index (2.4%) and the housing index (0.4%). The food index remained unchanged, helping to moderate the overall increase.

The seasonally adjusted all-items index rose by 0.3% in April, following increases of 0.4% in March and 0.3% in February. The year-to-year change between April 1986 and April 1987 was 4.5%, up somewhat from the 4.2% posted in the 12-month period ending in March. In addition, the compound annual rate of change based on the seasonally adjusted levels over the latest three-month period from January to April was 4.2%, up from 3.9% for the period ending in March.

Food

After posting a decrease of 0.1% in March, the food index remained unchanged for the month of April, as did its two major components: food purchased from stores and food purchased from restaurants. By comparison, in March, food purchased from stores declined 0.2% while food purchased from restaurants rose by 0.4%.

Despite a 3.4% increase in the price of beef products, due to reduced supplies of slaughter cattle, price reductions in other meat products, fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products, eggs, coffee and tea resulted in an unchanged food purchased from stores index. With world coffee prices decreasing due to expectations of a good 1987-88 crop in Brazil, coffee prices fell 5.4% during the month. Led by price decreases of 24.1% for cucumbers and 8.8% for celery, the fresh vegetable index fell 0.3%. A 0.5% drop in fresh fruit prices included price decreases for bananas (-4.2%) and oranges (-0.7%), but price increases for apples (0.9%) and grapefruit (5.0%).

Over the 12-month period, April 1986 to April 1987, the food index advanced by 5.1% compared to the year-over-year increase of 6.2% recorded in March. Gains of 5.5% in the index for food purchased from stores and 4.5% in the index for food purchased from restaurants accounted for the latest year-to-year increase.

All-items excluding Food

On a month-to-month basis, the all-items excluding food index rose 0.5% in April compared to a 0.6% increase recorded for March. All component indexes showed advances during the month, ranging from a 0.1% increase for the transportation index to a 2.4% increase for the tobacco and alcohol index.

Two factors of a general nature affected the overall CPI for this month. Firstly, there was a significant drop in domestic energy prices a year ago. Gasoline prices fell 10.9% and fuel oil prices fell 10.7% between March and April 1986. Thus, in April, the year-over-year changes are calculated from the low April 1986 levels and have, therefore, increased notably from the corresponding March results. Secondly, British Columbia reduced its sales tax from 7% to 6%, effective March 20.

The tobacco products and alcoholic beverages index advanced by 2.4%, due to a 4.1% increase in cigarette prices and a 1.9% increase in the cost of alcoholic beverages sold in stores. Increased federal excise taxes together with manufacturers' price increases and provincial (Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Alberta) cigarette tax increases accounted for the cigarette price rise. Alcoholic beverages increased due to a combination of higher taxes (Newfoundland and Alberta), increased producer costs and stronger exchange rates with respect to European currencies.

The housing index posted a 0.4% rise in April, as increases of 0.6% in the shelter component and 0.5% in household operations were somewhat dampened by a 0.7% decline in the household furnishings and equipment component. Within the shelter component,

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The Consumer Price Index and Major Components (Not Seasonally Adjusted), Canada
(1981 = 100)

	Indexes			Percentage change April 1987 from	
	April 1987	March 1987	April 1986	March 1987	April 1986
All-items	137.0	136.4	131.1	0.4	4.5
Food	131.2	131.2	124.8	0.0	5.1
All-items excluding food	138.6	137.9	132.9	0.5	4.3
Housing	137.1	136.5	131.8	0.4	4.0
Clothing	123.0	122.6	118.4	0.3	3.9
Transportation	137.7	137.5	133.3	0.1	3.3
Health and personal care	137.9	136.9	131.5	0.7	4.9
Recreation, reading and education	136.0	135.3	128.8	0.5	5.6
Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages	183.4	179.1	171.3	2.4	7.1
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1981	73.0	73.3	76.3		
All-items Consumer Price Index converted to 1971 = 100	324.6				

price gains were led by new housing prices (2.9%), rent (0.2%) and traveller accommodation charges (1.0%). After five months of price increases fuel oil declined 0.2%. This decline resulted largely from a combination of increased competition in Eastern Canada and a 2.5 cents per litre price reduction ordered by the Public Utilities Board in Nova Scotia. Year-over-year, fuel oil prices declined 10.4%, whereas new housing prices increased 16.6%.

After posting a 1.0% gain for March, the transportation index rose 0.1% in April. A 0.3% increase in the private transportation index was moderated by a 0.9% decline in the public transportation index. Although the price of new automobiles declined by 0.7% (due to manufacturers' discounts) and air fares declined by 2.0%, a 1.4% increase in gasoline prices together with a 1.1% increase in the prices for automotive maintenance and repairs resulted in the overall increase in the transportation index. April was the sixth consecutive month of gasoline price increases and for the first time in 14 months, the year-over-year price change posted an increase (3.8%). However, gasoline prices are still 12.5% below the peak prices reached in January 1986.

The recreation, reading and education index rose 0.5%. Notable price gains included newspapers (2.4%) and admissions to motion picture showings (3.0%) while sporting goods and photographic goods and services generally declined. Led by an increase of 0.6% in women's clothing, the clothing index posted an overall gain of 0.3%. This was due primarily to increases in the price of women's suits and sportswear. A smaller contribution to the upward pressure on the all-items excluding food index came from a gain of 0.7% for the health and personal care index.

Over the 12-month period, ending in April 1987, the all-items excluding food index rose by 4.3%, higher than the 3.7% increase posted for the previous 12-month period ending in March.

Goods and Services

The goods index posted a gain of 0.4% in April, the same result that was recorded for March, while the services index increased by 0.5% for the third consecutive month. Between April 1986 and April 1987 the goods index rose by 4.2%, once again a lower rate of increase than the 4.9% year-over-year rise recorded by the services index.

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City Highlights

Between March and April, changes in the all-items indexes for cities for which CPIs are published ranged from a decline of 0.7% for Victoria to an increase of 1.0% for both Edmonton and Calgary. For Victoria, the overall price decrease resulted from large declines in food and housing components as well as the sales tax rollback which affected all of British Columbia. A very large increase in the cost of tobacco and alcoholic beverages in both Edmonton (13.3%) and Calgary (12.9%) were responsible for the higher than average increase for those two cities. In Alberta, the cigarette tax increased from 1.48 cents to 4.0 cents per cigarette.

Between April 1986 and April 1987, movements in the all-items indexes for cities ranged between 2.1% for Victoria and 6.0% for Toronto.

Main Contributors to Monthly Changes in the All-items Index, by City

St. John's

Higher prices for cigarettes and alcoholic beverages, increased prices for men's and women's wear and higher housing charges explained most of the 0.3% rise in the all-items index. The rise in the housing index mainly reflected increased charges for owned accommodation, higher furniture prices and increased household equipment costs. Charges relating to rented and traveller accommodation advanced, as did postal rates and pet care expenses. Increased recreation charges were also noted (including higher movie admission costs). Partly offsetting these advances were lower transportation charges, particularly for new cars, gasoline and air fares (taxi rates increased). A decline in overall food prices was also observed, as lower prices for pork, turkey, cured and prepared meats, dairy products, eggs, cereal and bakery products and soft drinks were only partly offset by higher prices for beef, fresh produce and restaurant meals. Since April 1986, the all-items index has risen 2.8%.

Charlottetown/Summerside

Among the main contributors to the 0.5% rise in the all-items index were increased charges for rented and owned accommodation, higher postal rates and increased furniture costs. Advances were also noted in the prices of men's wear, personal care supplies, cigarettes, newspapers and movie admission charges. Food prices were up, reflecting higher prices for beef, pork, milk, canned vegetables and restaurant meals. Air fares and the cost of new cars declined. From April 1986 to April 1987, the all-items index has risen 3.6%.

Halifax

Higher prices for cigarettes (resulting from both provincial tax increases and manufacturers' increases) combined with advances in clothing prices and higher costs for alcoholic beverages purchased from stores explained a large part of the 0.1% rise in the all-items index. Other notable price increases were observed in the costs of non-prescribed medicines, dental care and personal care supplies, as well as in the costs of cablevision service and admission to movies. Largely offsetting these advances were declines in food, housing and transportation costs. Within the transportation component, lower prices were observed for gasoline (the result of a rollback of 2.5/litre ordered by the utilities board), new cars and air travel. Within the housing component, lower prices for fuel oil (also the result of the 2.5/litre rollback), furniture and household equipment more than offset increased charges for rented and owned accommodation and higher postal rates. The decline in the food index mainly reflected lower prices for chicken, prepared meats, dairy products, bakery products and fresh produce. Since April 1986, the all-items index has risen 3.8%.

Saint John

The all-items index rose 0.6%. Among the main contributors were higher clothing prices and increased gasoline costs (return from price war levels). Also contributing a notable

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Saint John (continued)

upward impact were higher charges for home entertainment equipment, increased movie admission costs and higher prices for cigarettes and alcoholic beverages. Charges for dental care also advanced. The food index declined slightly, as lower prices for beef, poultry, cured meat and fresh vegetables more than offset higher prices for pork, fresh fruit and restaurant meals. Between April 1986 and April 1987, the all-items index has risen 2.6%.

Quebec City

Higher prices for men's and women's wear, increased charges for dental care and higher prices for cigarettes and alcoholic beverages explained a large part of the 0.2% rise in the all-items index. Also contributing to the upward movement were increased recreation charges and higher gasoline prices, as well as increased charges for owned and traveller accommodation, higher postal rates and increased costs for furniture and household equipment. Partially offsetting these advances were lower prices for new cars, decreased rented accommodation costs and lower prices for fuel oil. Food prices declined slightly as lower prices for pork, turkey, cereal and bakery products, fresh fruit and coffee more than offset price increases for beef, chicken, prepared meats and fresh vegetables. Since April 1986, the all-items index has risen 4.0%.

Montreal

Advances in the prices of men's and women's wear, cigarettes and wine purchased from stores, combined with increased owned accommodation charges and higher costs for dental care and personal care supplies explained most of the 0.4% rise in the all-items index. Higher newspaper costs, increased recreation charges, and advances in the costs of traveller accommodation, postage and pet care were also noted. Food prices advanced slightly, as higher prices for beef and restaurant meals more than offset price declines for pork, poultry, fresh produce and coffee. Prices for new cars and air travel declined. Between April 1986 and April 1987, the all-items index has risen 4.5%.

Ottawa

Increased charges for rented and owned accommodation, higher charges for dental care and advances in the costs of men's and women's wear, cigarettes and beer purchased from stores explained a large part of the 0.5% rise in the all-items index. Advances in recreation costs (particularly for home entertainment equipment, cablevision service and movie admissions), traveller accommodation charges, postal rates and child care expenses were also noted. Food prices were up slightly, mainly reflecting higher prices for chicken, cereal and bakery products and restaurant meals. From April 1986 to April 1987, the all-items index has risen 4.3%.

Toronto

Higher owned accommodation charges (especially for replacement cost) combined with higher prices for gasoline, cigarettes and beer purchased from stores were among the main contributors to the 0.7% rise in the all-items index. Higher prices for prescribed and non-prescribed medicines, increased dental care charges, higher postal rates and increased costs for rented accommodation were also noted. Food prices advanced, reflecting higher prices for beef, pork, chicken and restaurant meals. Since April 1986, the all-items index has risen 6.0%.

Thunder Bay

The all-items index rose 0.2%, largely reflecting higher prices for cigarettes and for beer purchased from stores, as well as increased recreation costs, especially for recreational and home entertainment equipment and services. Other notable advances were observed in the costs of personal care supplies, dental care and gasoline. Food prices rose overall, as higher prices for pork, chicken, eggs, cereal products, soft drinks and restaurant meals more than offset price declines for beef, dairy products, fresh produce and coffee. The housing index recorded a slight decline, as lower furniture prices more than offset price increases for rented, owned and traveller accommodation, as well as higher postal rates and increased appliance costs. Clothing prices declined. Since April 1986, the all-items index has risen 3.1%.

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Winnipeg

Higher prices for cigarettes (resulting from both provincial tax increases and higher manufacturers' costs) and increased electricity charges explained a large part of the 0.4% rise in the all-items index. Increased rented and owned accommodation costs, higher postal rates and increased child care expenses were also observed. Advances were also noted in the cost of dental care, vehicle maintenance and repair charges and in overall food prices (most notably beef, fresh vegetables, soft drinks and restaurant meals). Clothing prices declined, as did the cost of personal care supplies, new cars and air travel. Since April 1986, the all-items index has risen 4.4%.

Regina

The all-items index rose marginally (0.1%) with most of the upward impact originating from higher recreation costs (particularly for admission to movies and cablevision services), increased health and personal care charges (most notably non-prescribed medicines, dental care and personal care supplies) and higher prices for cigarettes and alcoholic beverages. The rise in cigarette prices mainly reflected higher supplier costs and the delayed impact of the rise in the federal excise tax, while the higher prices for alcoholic beverages were the result of higher supplier prices and adjustments on foreign exchange rates. Largely offsetting these advances were declines in food, clothing and transportation costs. The decline in the transportation index mainly reflected lower prices for new cars, gasoline and air travel, while the clothing index declined largely due to lower prices for men's and boys' wear. Lower overall food prices were observed, reflecting lower costs for beef, pork, turkey, cured and prepared meats, fresh vegetables and coffee. Since April 1986, the all-items index has risen 4.8%.

Saskatoon

Higher food prices (especially for bakery products, fresh produce, soft drinks and restaurant meals), increased recreation charges and higher costs for non-prescribed medicines, dental care and personal care supplies were among the main contributors to

the 0.4% rise in the all-items index. Advances in the prices of cigarettes (reflecting higher suppliers' costs and the delayed impact of the federal excise tax) and liquor purchased from stores (reflecting increases in suppliers' costs and foreign exchange rates) also exerted a notable upward impact. The housing index increased marginally, as increased costs for rented and owned accommodation, traveller accommodation and postage were largely offset by lower prices for household furnishings. The transportation index declined slightly, due to lower prices for new cars and gasoline, and a decline in air fares. Since April 1986, the all-items index has risen 4.4%.

Edmonton

The 1.0% rise in the all-items index mainly reflected higher prices for cigarettes and alcoholic beverages purchased from stores (these advances were the result of both higher prices from suppliers and increased provincial taxes). Higher electricity charges, increased postal rates and higher costs for rented and owned accommodation also contributed to the upward movement. Food prices declined overall, due mainly to lower prices for cured and prepared meats, eggs, coffee and soft drinks. Since April 1986, the all-items index has risen 3.6%.

Calgary

The all-items index rose 1.0% with most of the upward impact originating from higher prices for cigarettes and alcoholic beverages purchased from stores (these advances reflected both higher costs from the suppliers and a rise in provincial taxes). Other notable advances occurred in owned accommodation charges, postal rates, dental care charges and the cost of movie admissions. Clothing prices advanced slightly. The food index declined, as lower prices for poultry, cured meats, eggs and soft drinks more than offset higher prices for fresh fruit and vegetables. Declines were also observed in new car prices and in air fares. Between April 1986 and April 1987, the all-items index rose 3.8%.

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Vancouver

The all-items index declined 0.1%, mainly reflecting the decline in the provincial retail sales tax from 7% to 6%. Among the main contributors in the decline were lower prices for clothing, new cars, traveller accommodation, household furnishings and equipment, long-distance telephone charges and alcoholic beverages purchased from stores. Recreational and home entertainment equipment costs also declined, as did overall food prices. The decline in the food index was largely the result of the removal of the provincial retail sales tax on restaurant meals over \$7.00, although lower prices were also observed for pork, poultry, cured and prepared meats, eggs, bread, coffee and soft drinks. Largely offsetting these declines were higher prices for cigarettes, movie admissions, prescribed medicines, dental care and gasoline. The rise in gasoline prices largely reflected the higher tax on leaded gas, as well as an increase in the urban transit tax. Other notable advances were observed in the costs of rented and owned accommodation, postage, and child care. Since April 1986, the all-items index has risen 3.2%.

Victoria

The 0.7% decline in the all-items index was largely the result of the decline in the provincial retail sales tax from 7% to 6%. The largest decrease was observed in food prices, most notably for restaurant meals, where the 7% tax on meals over \$7.00 was removed. Prices for poultry, cured and prepared meats, bread and soft drinks also declined. Decreased costs were also observed for rented and owned accommodation and for household furnishings and equipment. Prices for new cars, clothing, alcoholic beverages purchased from stores, air transportation and recreational and home entertainment equipment also declined. Partly offsetting these declines were higher gasoline prices (due to an increase in the provincial tax on leaded gasoline), higher postal rates and increased prices for cigarettes and for prescribed and non-prescribed medicines. Since April 1986, the all-items index has risen 2.1%.

(see tables on pages 8 and 9)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1922-1940.

Order the April 1987 issue of *The Consumer Price Index* (62-001, \$8/\$80), now available. Contact Sandra Shadlock (613-990-9606), Prices Division.

Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.¹

	All-items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and personal care	Recreation, reading and education	Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages
St. John's								
April 1987 index	134.8	122.4	134.5	131.8	135.4	136.3	134.3	180.4
% change from March 1987	0.3	-0.6	0.4	1.2	-0.2	0.4	1.3	1.7
% change from April 1986	2.8	5.6	1.4	4.4	0.0	4.7	5.2	3.4
Charlottetown/Summerside								
April 1987 index	130.7	123.1	127.9	120.1	129.9	140.1	140.8	180.4
% change from March 1987	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.2	-0.1	0.7	1.1	0.6
% change from April 1986	3.6	5.8	1.9	2.7	1.1	4.2	6.5	9.3
Halifax								
April 1987 index	135.7	122.0	136.6	121.8	134.7	145.5	142.3	192.1
% change from March 1987	0.1	-0.2	-0.3	1.8	-1.5	0.9	0.2	4.9
% change from April 1986	3.8	5.4	2.2	3.3	0.7	5.7	5.3	14.1
Saint John								
April 1987 index	135.8	128.7	138.9	121.3	132.0	134.1	140.8	184.5
% change from March 1987	0.6	-0.1	0.0	1.8	1.3	0.8	1.6	1.4
% change from April 1986	2.6	5.8	2.1	3.9	-2.4	3.6	5.9	4.5
Quebec City								
April 1987 index	138.6	132.2	140.8	124.7	138.2	140.7	128.5	186.4
% change from March 1987	0.2	-0.1	0.0	1.1	0.1	1.2	0.3	1.2
% change from April 1986	4.0	4.9	3.2	4.4	3.0	6.3	5.2	4.8
Montreal								
April 1987 index	139.1	133.5	139.9	123.8	142.1	138.4	133.1	187.7
% change from March 1987	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.1	-0.3	1.1	0.8	1.3
% change from April 1986	4.5	5.7	4.2	4.6	3.3	5.1	5.8	3.6
Ottawa								
April 1987 index	137.9	129.1	141.5	124.0	139.3	139.9	134.8	176.9
% change from March 1987	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.6	-0.1	2.7	0.7	1.0
% change from April 1986	4.3	5.7	3.1	4.8	2.7	7.3	5.6	6.4
Toronto								
April 1987 index	140.7	135.0	143.3	125.4	141.5	140.7	136.6	179.3
% change from March 1987	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.0	0.3	0.6	0.2	1.3
% change from April 1986	6.0	5.6	7.3	3.6	4.9	5.1	5.6	6.6
Thunder Bay								
April 1987 index	135.6	130.1	134.9	121.1	136.5	139.5	134.9	175.1
% change from March 1987	0.2	0.4	-0.1	-0.7	0.2	1.2	1.2	1.1
% change from April 1986	3.1	3.4	1.4	3.4	2.3	4.4	5.8	7.8
Winnipeg								
April 1987 index	135.1	124.6	138.1	121.0	132.3	133.6	138.8	191.0
% change from March 1987	0.4	0.4	0.5	-0.7	0.0	0.1	0.2	2.2
% change from April 1986	4.4	4.9	3.7	3.3	2.6	5.2	5.9	10.7

Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres (continued)

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.¹

	All-items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and personal care	Recreation, reading and education	Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages
Regina								
April 1987 index	132.4	121.7	137.5	118.5	124.7	140.8	134.7	176.2
% change from March 1987	0.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.3	-0.7	0.9	0.7	1.3
% change from April 1986	4.8	6.8	3.4	3.6	5.0	4.7	6.3	6.9
Saskatoon								
April 1987 index	133.5	123.6	136.5	122.3	127.6	137.2	137.5	173.0
% change from March 1987	0.4	0.9	0.1	-0.2	-0.4	1.7	1.0	1.1
% change from April 1986	4.4	6.3	3.7	3.9	1.5	5.5	6.3	6.3
Edmonton								
April 1987 index	132.0	130.4	124.2	120.8	135.0	139.4	133.3	203.6
% change from March 1987	1.0	-0.8	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.9	0.7	13.3
% change from April 1986	3.6	3.3	1.8	3.8	2.0	4.0	5.0	16.9
Calgary								
April 1987 index	131.4	129.3	123.8	116.9	136.5	142.3	133.0	198.2
% change from March 1987	1.0	-0.8	0.4	0.3	-0.3	1.1	0.6	12.9
% change from April 1986	3.8	5.0	1.5	3.9	2.4	3.5	4.7	16.9
Vancouver								
April 1987 index	132.2	129.1	125.7	122.5	137.8	132.2	143.9	171.0
% change from March 1987	-0.1	-1.3	0.0	-0.8	1.0	0.4	0.8	0.2
% change from April 1986	3.2	3.4	1.8	3.0	3.2	3.8	6.2	6.3
Victoria²								
April 1987 index	105.4	107.8	99.9	105.7	105.5	106.2	111.2	124.4
% change from March 1987	-0.7	-1.1	-0.9	-0.8	0.2	0.4	-0.2	0.1
% change from April 1986	2.1	3.4	-0.3	2.8	2.5	2.1	5.2	7.2

¹ For inter-city indexes of retail price differentials, refer to Table 24 of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes (62-010, \$15/\$60).

² December 1984 = 100.

Business Conditions Survey – Canadian Manufacturing Industries

April 1987

Despite an improvement in the balance¹ of Canadian manufacturers' opinions on the current backlog of unfilled orders, renewed concerns were expressed in the April 1987 survey regarding the high level of finished product inventories. This was reflected in the downward swing in opinion on prospects for production over the next three months.

Highlights

- Manufacturers' opinions about the level of finished product inventory were more pessimistic in the April 1987 survey and have reverted back to the level of the negative balances recorded in the latter half of 1986.
- The balance of opinion concerning expectations for the volume of production for the next three months shifted to -8 from +1 in January, the first time in more than a year that the balance has been negative.

- The proportion of manufacturers reporting that the present backlog of unfilled orders was higher than normal increased to 17 in April from 10 in January, reaching the highest value since the July 1984 survey.
- The situation for orders received was effectively unchanged from January, with a balance of -2 for both periods. The April 1987 result was at about the same level as a year earlier.

(see table on page 11 and charts on page 12)

Data users should note the January 1987 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) or
Suzette Desrosiers (613-990-9497), Shipments,
Inventories and Orders Section, Industry
Division.

¹ The balance is the difference between the proportion associated with a positive-type response and the proportion related to the negative-type response.

Business Conditions Survey, Canadian Manufacturing Industries

April 1987

All Manufacturing Industries	Apr. 1986	July 1986	Oct. 1986	Jan. 1987	Apr. 1987
Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:					
Seasonally adjusted					
About the same	47	45	44	47	50
Higher	29	29	29	27	21
Lower	24	26	27	26	29
Balance	+5	+3	+2	+1	-8
Raw					
Balance	+25	-10	-1	-3	+10
Orders received are:					
Seasonally adjusted					
About the same	61	60	52	54	52
Rising	19	22	21	22	23
Declining	20	18	27	24	25
Balance	-1	+4	-6	-2	-2
Raw					
Balance	+7	+2	-10	-4	+5
Present backlog of unfilled orders is:					
Seasonally adjusted					
About normal	69	73	59	66	59
Higher than Normal	13	9	13	10	17
Lower than Normal	18	18	28	24	24
Balance	-5	-9	-15	-14	-7
Raw					
Balance	-5	-6	-16	-16	-6
Finished product inventory on hand is:					
Seasonally adjusted					
About right	69	71	74	80	66
Too Low	5	4	3	5	8
Too High ¹	26	25	23	15	26
Balance	-21	-21	-20	-10	-18
Raw					
Balance	-22	-21	-18	-11	-19
Sources of production difficulties					
Raw					
Working Capital Shortage	4	4	3	3	4
Skilled Labour Shortage	5	5	5	4	5
Unskilled Labour Shortage	0	0	1	1	1
RawMaterial Shortage	4	4	5	3	4
Other Difficulties	2	2	3	2	4
No Difficulties	87	87	85	88	83

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

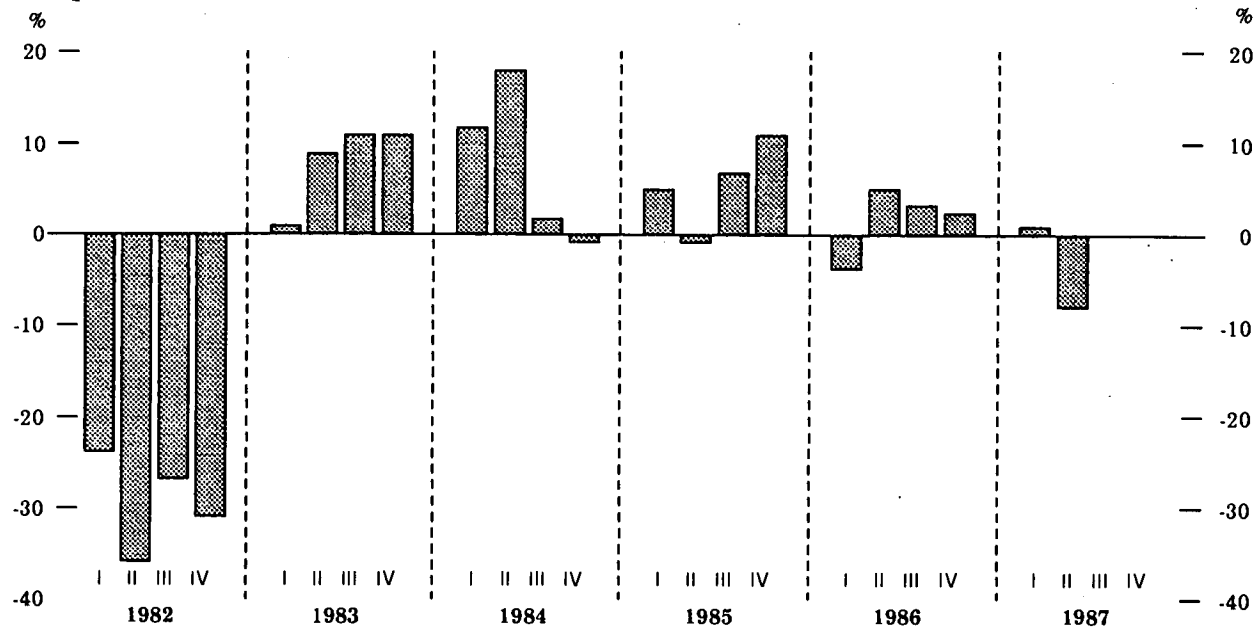
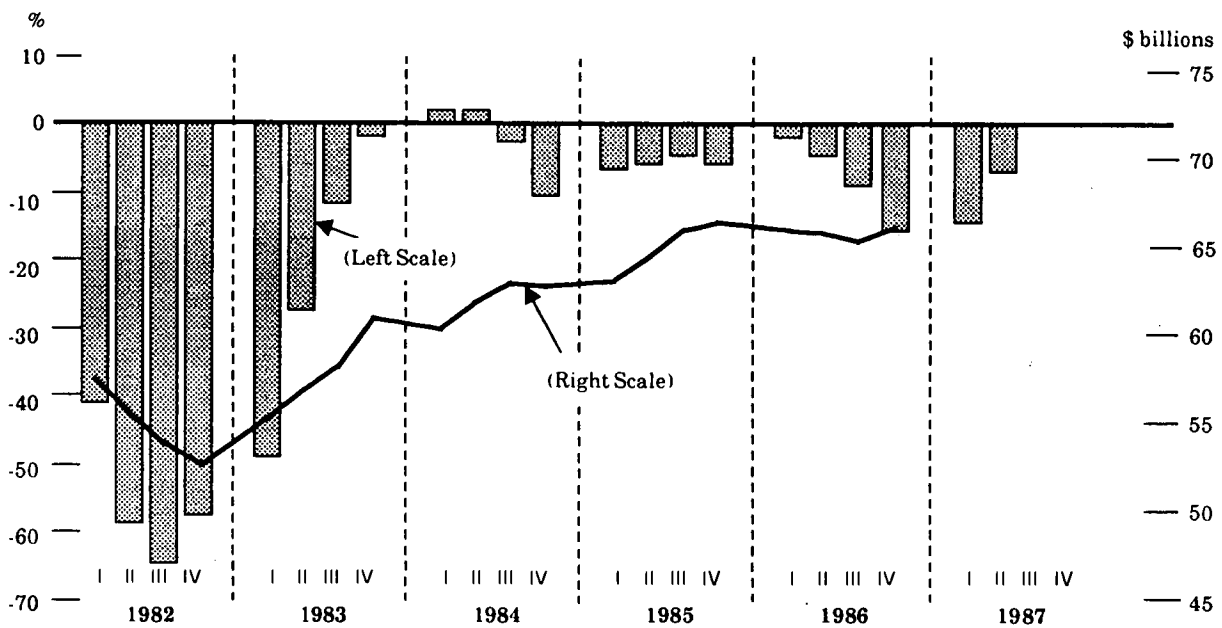


Chart 2

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



Data Availability Announcements

Housing Starts

March 1987

Highlights

Total (all areas)

- Seasonally adjusted at annual rates, housing starts in Canada in March reached 267,000 units, a 33.5% increase from the 200,000 level registered in February.
- The March total represented the highest level attained since March 1978.

Urban Centres (10,000 Population and Over)

- A 37% increase was registered in urban centres, mainly attributable to a substantial (+52%) increase in multiple housing starts.
- While starts were marginally lower in the Atlantic and Prairie regions, the provinces of Ontario (+27.2%), British Columbia (+16.7%) and especially Quebec (+105.1%) reported substantial increases.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 23, 24, 25, 29 and 988.

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

Selected Service Industries in Canada

1982-84

Results from a new data development program covering 13 selected service industries within the business, personal, amusement and miscellaneous services sectors for the years 1982-84

are now available. The industries include advertising, rental and leasing, employment agencies, and barber and beauty salons, among others.

The estimates show that between 1982 and 1984, the number of firms for this group of service industries increased by approximately 16,000 to 104,191 while revenues rose by \$2.4 billion to a level of \$14.7 billion in 1984.

Information on numbers of businesses, revenues by source, client base, full and part-time employment and employee compensation will be presented in the publication entitled *Selected Service Industries in Canada, 1982-1984* (63-231, \$22), to be released the first week of June. Contact W. Birbeck (613-991-3495), Services Division.

Tobacco Products

April 1987

Canadian tobacco product firms produced 4,429,694,000 cigarettes in April 1987, a 3.2% increase from the 4,290,562,000 cigarettes manufactured during the same period in 1986. Production for January to April 1987 totalled 19,271,923,000 cigarettes, down from 20,095,353,000 cigarettes for the corresponding period in 1986.

Domestic sales in April 1987 totalled 2,861,237,000 cigarettes, a decrease of 18.1% from the April 1986 amount of 3,494,166,000 cigarettes. Year-to-date sales in 1987 totalled 15,105,570,000 cigarettes, down 7.2% from the 1986 cumulative amount of 16,272,455,000 cigarettes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.

Order the April 1987 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products* (32-022, \$4/\$40), to be released the week of June 1. Contact Brian Preston (613-991-3511), Industry Division.

Steel Ingots

March 1987

Steel ingot production for March 1987 totalled 1 351 213 tonnes, an increase of 7.5% from 1 256 742 tonnes the previous year.

Year-to-date production reached 3 731 221 tonnes, an increase of 5.2% from 3 545 567 tonnes a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 58 (level 2, series 3).

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

Steel Pipe and Tubing

March 1987

Steel pipe and tubing production for March 1987 totalled 114 486 tonnes, an increase of 7.7% from the 106 298 (revised figure) tonnes produced a year earlier.

Year-to-date production totalled 324 695 tonnes, down 7.0% from the 348 959 (revised figure) tonnes produced during the same period in 1986.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 35.

Order the March 1987 issue of *Steel Pipe and Tubing* (41-011, \$4/\$40), to be released the week of May 25. Contact Gerry Barrett (613-991-3515), Industry Division.

Stocks of Frozen Poultry Products

May 1, 1987

Preliminary cold storage of frozen poultry products at May 1, 1987 and revised figures for April 1, 1987 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.

Order the March 1987 issue of *Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry* (23-003, \$10/\$100), scheduled for release June 9. Contact P. Beerstecher (613-991-2505), Agriculture/Natural Resources Division.

Exports by Commodity

March 1987

Commodity-country export trade statistics for March 1987 are now available on microfiche, computer printouts or magnetic tapes in advance of the monthly publication.

Available on CANSIM (for selected information): matrices 3686-3713 and 3719.

Order the March 1987 issue of *Exports by Commodity* (65-004, \$50/\$500), available the last week of May. Contact G.L. Blaney (613-990-9647), International Trade Division.

Wooden Box and Pallet Industry

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the wooden box and pallet industry (SIC 2561) totalled \$198.2 million, up 3.7% from \$191.2 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5467 and to be released shortly in catalogue 35-250B 2561. Commodity data for this industry will become available in August.

Contact J. Lepage (613-991-3510), Industry Division.

Wooden Household Furniture Industries

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the wooden household furniture industries (SIC 2611) totalled \$771.0 million, up 11.2% from \$693.5 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5474 and to be released shortly in catalogue 35-251B 2611. Commodity data for this industry will become available in August.

Contact Michel J. Cormier (613-991-3522), Industry Division.

Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Furniture and Fixture Industry

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the hotel, restaurant and institutional furniture and fixture industry (SIC 2692) totalled \$569.0 million, up 21.1% from \$469.9 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5480 and to be released shortly in catalogue 35-251B 2692. Commodity data for this industry will become available in August.

Contact Michel J. Cormier (613-991-3522), Industry Division.

Platemaking, Typesetting and Bindery Industry

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the platemaking, typesetting and bindery industry (SIC 2821) totalled \$901.4 million, up 10.3% from \$816.9 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5499 and to be released shortly in catalogue 36-251B 2821. Commodity data for this industry will become available in August.

Contact R. Wright (613-991-3514), Industry Division.

Plate Work Industry

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the plate work industry (SIC 3022) totalled \$154.8 million, up 59.9% from \$96.8 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5518 and to be released shortly in catalogue 41-251B 3022. Commodity data for this industry will become available in August.

Contact Michel J. Cormier (613-991-3522), Industry Division.

Motor Vehicle Plastic Parts Industry

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the motor vehicle plastic parts industry (SIC 3256) totalled \$1,002.5 million, up 53.4% from \$653.5 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5560 and to be released shortly in catalogue 42-251B 3256. Commodity data for this industry will become available in August.

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

Battery Industry

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the battery industry (SIC 3391) totalled \$272.2 million, down 4.4% from \$284.7 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5584 and to be released shortly in catalogue 43-250B 3391. Commodity data for this industry will become available in August.

Contact Aldo Diaz (613-991-3523), Industry Division.

Industrial Organic Chemical Industries, n.e.c.

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the industrial organic chemical industries, n.e.c. (SIC 3712) totalled \$4,708.9 million, up 9.6% from \$4,296.1 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 6871 and to be released shortly in catalogue 46-250B 3712. Commodity data for this industry will become available in August.

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

Publications Released

Livestock Report – Pigs, April 1, 1987.

Catalogue number 23-008

(Canada: \$15/\$60; Other Countries: \$16/\$64).

Construction Type Plywood, February 1987.

Catalogue number 35-001

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

Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, January 1987.

Catalogue number 35-003

(Canada: \$6/\$60; Other Countries: \$7/\$70).

Financial Institutions: Financial Statistics, Fourth Quarter 1986.

Catalogue number 61-006

(Canada: \$40/\$160; Other Countries: \$41.50/\$166).

Provincial Government Enterprise Finance, 1984.

Catalogue number 61-204

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

Wholesale Trade, February 1987.

Catalogue number 63-008

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

Unemployment Insurance Statistics, February 1987.

Catalogue number 73-001

(Canada: \$12/\$120; Other Countries: \$13/\$130).

Quarterly Estimates of Trusteed Pension Funds, Third Quarter 1986.

Catalogue number 74-001

(Canada: \$10/\$40; Other Countries: \$11/\$44).

Mental Health Statistics, 1982-83 and 1983-84.

Catalogue number 83-204

(Canada: \$15; Other Countries: \$16).

Hospital Statistics, Preliminary Annual Report, 1985-86.

Catalogue number 83-217

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

List of Residential Care Facilities in Canada, 1986.

Catalogue number 83-221

(Canada: \$28; Other Countries: \$29).

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(Release dates are subject to change)

**Anticipated
date(s) of
release**

Title

Reference period

May

19	New Motor Vehicle Sales	March 1987
19	Sales of Refined Petroleum Products	March 1987
21	Farm Cash Receipts	January-March 1987
21	Net Farm Income	1986
22	International Travel Account	First Quarter 1987
22-26	Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries	March 1987

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