

# The Daily

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## Major Releases

### Building Permits, March 1987 2

- The estimated value of building permits issued decreased 1.9% from February to \$2.6 billion.

### Non-residential Construction Output Price Indexes, First Quarter 1987 4

- Non-residential construction prices increased 2.7%, the largest quarterly increase in five years.

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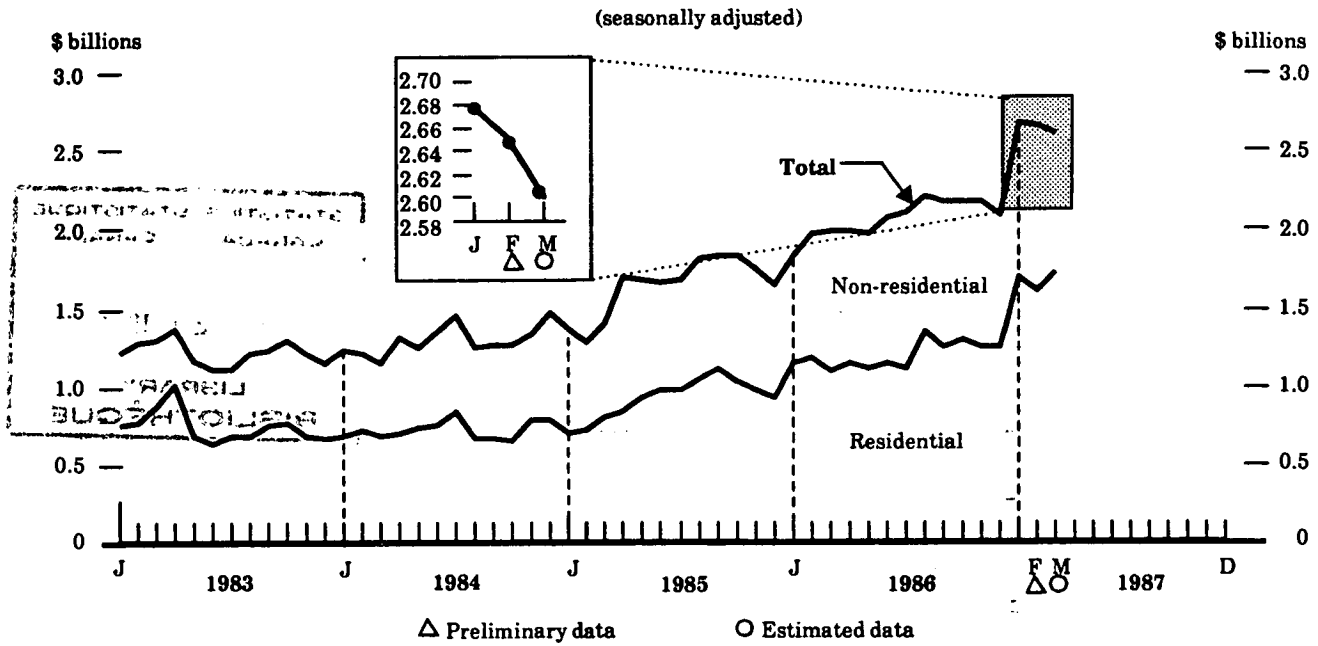
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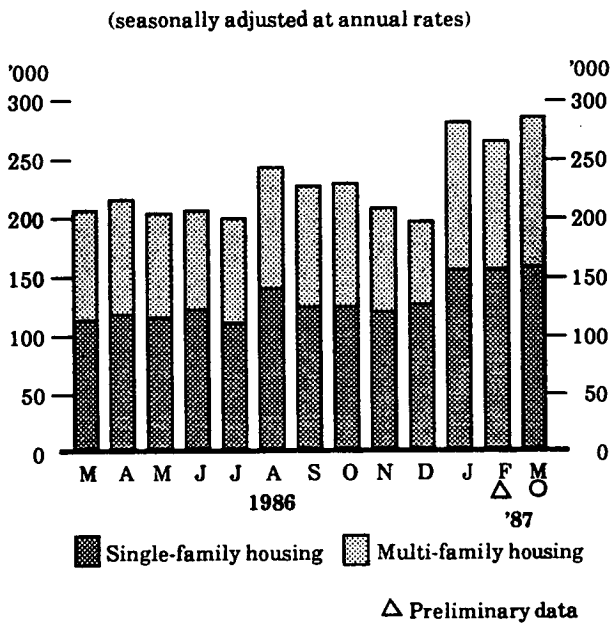
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## Major Releases

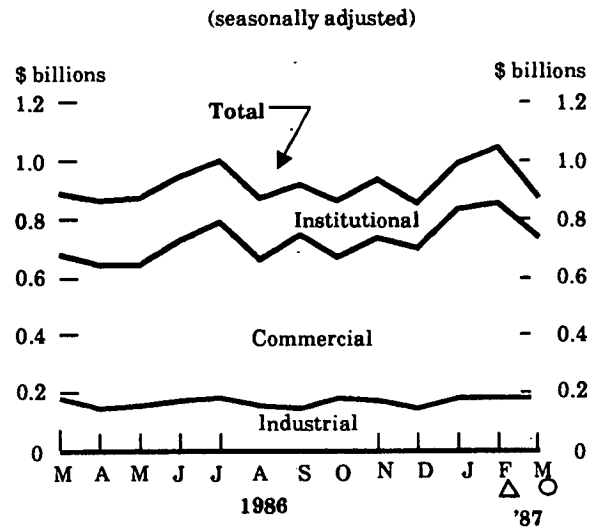
**Chart 1**  
**Value of Building Permits Issued in Canada**



**Chart 2**  
**Dwelling Units Authorized in Canada**



**Chart 3**  
**Value of Non-residential permits issued in Canada**



## Building Permits

March 1987

(Seasonally adjusted data and filtered indexes)

### Summary

The estimated value of building permits issued in Canada in March 1987 totalled \$2,602.7 million compared to \$2,652.9 million in February, a 1.9% drop. The non-residential sector was entirely responsible for this decrease, falling 15.8% while the residential sector increased 7.1%.

The construction leading indicator continued its upward movement (+2.3%), in spite of the slowing in March of construction intentions. The index reached 119.7 in January compared to a revised index of 117.0 in December.

### Residential Sector

- The value of residential permits issued jumped 7.1% in March to \$1,729.1 million from \$1,614.9 million in February.
- The single-family dwelling sector gained 3.1% to \$1,220.2 million and building permits for the multi-family dwelling sector climbed 17.9% to \$508.9 million.
- The number of dwelling units authorized in March was 283,300 units (at an annual rate): 154,800 single detached and 128,500 multiple dwellings, a rise of 7.7%.
- All regions registered substantial increases in the number of units authorized except Quebec and British Columbia where decreases were registered.
- The cumulative value of residential permits for the first three months of 1987 totalled \$5,034.6 million while for the same period in 1986 it was \$3,422.3 million.
- The filtered index of residential permits gained 3.8% in January, reaching 143.6 compared to a revised index of 138.4 in December. The strong advance indicates an upward trend in housing investment for the first quarter of 1987 (at least for new housing construction).

### Non-residential sector

- The estimated value of non-residential permits issued dropped 15.8% in March to \$873.6 million compared to \$1,038.0 million in February.
- The industrial component remained stable at \$185.2 million, while the commercial sector decreased 18.0% to \$542.2 million. The governmental sector fell 23.6% to \$146.2 million.
- Gains in the non-residential sector were recorded only in the Atlantic region while all other regions registered losses.
- The filtered index of non-residential permits remained stable in January compared to the revised index of December at 94.7. This levelling off has persisted for the last few months and is attributable to opposite trends in the industrial and commercial sectors (up) and the public sector (down).

### Note to users

In order to improve the timeliness of the information provided, this revised version of Building Permits, in addition to the usual preliminary data, presents a national estimate for the latest month. This national estimate is based upon the volume of permits issued in metropolitan areas.

This release also includes the Leading Indicator of Construction Activity (previously published separately). In order to reduce the number of false signals, the leading indicator is lagged two months in relation to the month of reference.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 80 (level 3, 5 and 9) and 129, 137, 443, 989-991, 994, 995 and 4073.

Order the February 1987 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$20/\$200), scheduled for release the third week of June. Contact Francine Monette (613-991-2583), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

## Non-residential Construction Output Price Index

First Quarter 1987

The price index for non-residential construction at the Canada level rose to 117.6 in the first quarter of 1987. This rise of 2.7% from the previous quarter marks the largest quarter-to-quarter change since the fourth quarter of 1981. As well, the 7.7% increase from the same quarter one year ago is the largest annual increase since mid-1982. Commercial construction prices were responsible for most of the change with a quarterly gain of 3.2% followed by institutional construction at 1.7% and industrial construction at 1.5%.

Toronto recorded the largest quarterly increase in non-residential construction prices (4.8%), followed by Ottawa (1.1%), Halifax (1.0%) and Montreal (0.3%). Prices fell in the three western cities where the markets are weaker: Edmonton (-0.2%), Calgary (-0.4%) and Vancouver (-0.5%).

The volume of construction (as measured in constant dollars of building permits issued) continues to be stronger in Ontario and Quebec as compared with the rest of the country. In Ontario the constant dollar value rose 27.3% in 1986 while for Quebec it increased 4.0% in the same period. Toronto remains the metropolitan area with the greatest activity and the largest increases in prices. Sub-trades which operate in the residential and non-residential field are showing substantial increases in prices in the last quarter with masonry up about 25.0% and drywall up approximately 11.0%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 414 and 415.

Order the fourth quarter issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), available in June. Contact the Prices Division (613-990-9608).

## Output Price Indexes of Non-residential Construction

First Quarter 1987  
(1981 = 100)

Seven cities and composite indexes								
	Halifax	Montreal	Ottawa	Toronto	Calgary	Edmonton	Vancouver	Composite
Quarterly indexes								
1986 Q1	118.2	121.2	123.2	125.6	92.4	92.3	106.6	109.2
1986 Q2	119.7	123.0	123.7	128.1	93.1	92.1	107.0	110.7
1986 Q3	120.0	125.2	124.4	130.3	93.9	92.5	108.1	112.3
1986 Q4	120.4	127.9	126.1	134.2	93.4	92.9	108.7	114.5
1987 Q1	121.6	128.3	127.5	140.6	93.0	92.7	108.2	117.6
% change								
Q3'86/Q2'86	0.2	1.8	0.6	1.7	0.9	0.4	1.0	1.4
Q4'86/Q3'86	0.3	2.2	1.4	3.0	-0.5	0.4	0.6	2.0
Q1'87/Q4'86	1.0	0.3	1.1	4.8	-0.4	-0.2	-0.5	2.7
Q1'87/Q1'86	2.9	5.9	3.5	11.9	0.6	0.4	1.5	7.7

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## Data Availability Announcements

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### **School Board Financial Statistics 1984**

Total school board expenditures grew 5.4% in 1984, to reach \$17.7 billion. This rise marks the smallest percentage increase in over 10 years. Teachers salaries, which make up the majority of expenses, followed a similar trend but rose less rapidly (4.7%). By comparison, the Consumer Price Index increased 4.4% in 1984.

School board revenues from local taxation increased 7.3% in 1984, while provincial government contributions rose 3.9%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 00590301-0059303.

Order *School Board Financial Statistics*, 1984 (81-002), to be released in late summer. Contact Louis Pierre (613-991-1507), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

### **Chemical and Petrochemical Plant Price Index** First Quarter 1987

The Chemical and Petrochemical Plant Price Index (1981=100) rose to a preliminary level of 127.8 in the first quarter of 1987, up 0.8% from the revised 1986 fourth quarter level of 126.8. This is the largest quarterly increase since the first quarter of 1986, which was 1.1%.

The machinery and equipment component rose 1.2%. The fabricated equipment category, due to price increases for heat exchangers, rose 2.4%, while structural support, paint and insulation climbed 2.3%. Lesser increases were posted for process machinery (0.7%), process instruments and controls (0.2%), and electric equipment (0.7%). Piping, valves and fittings registered the only decrease (-0.6%), which was due mainly to lower stainless steel prices. The buildings component advanced 1.8%.

Helping to moderate these strong increases was a 0.6% rise for engineering, design and administration. Construction labour was unchanged and the construction indirects component declined -0.2%, due mainly to a decline in the exchange rate adjusted series for construction equipment imported from the United States.

Comparing the first quarter of 1987 with the corresponding quarter of 1986, the total index advanced 2.6%. The percentage changes for major components ranged from no change for construction labour to a high of 6.6% for buildings.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 294.

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

## Chemical and Mineral Process Plant Price Index First Quarter 1987

The Chemical and Mineral Process Plant Price Index (1981=100) reached a preliminary level of 128.5 in the first quarter of 1987, up 0.9% from the revised 1986 fourth-quarter level of 127.4. This is the largest quarterly increase since the second quarter of 1985, which was 1.0%.

The heavily-weighted machinery and equipment component rose 1.0%, while the buildings component climbed 1.8%. Helping to moderate these increases was a -0.2% change for the field erection component. This was due to unchanged labour rates and a stronger Canadian dollar, vis-a-vis the U.S. dollar, on imported construction equipment. Engineering, design and administration was 0.6% higher.

Within the machinery and equipment component, process machinery (1.4%), structural support, paint and insulation (2.3%) and other utilities equipment (4.7%) posted larger than average increases. Below average increases were recorded for fabricated equipment (0.3%), pumps and compressors (0.2%) and electrical equipment (0.6%). Lower stainless steel prices led to a 0.4% decline for piping, valves and fittings.

Comparing the first quarter of 1987 with the same quarter of 1986, the total index rose 3.0%. The perchange changes for the major components ranged from a low of -0.2% for the field erection component to a high of 6.6% for the buildings component.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 291.

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

## Deliveries of Major Grains March 1987

Producer deliveries of major grains by Prairie farmers during March 1987 were as follows (in thousand tonnes):

• Wheat (excluding durum),	732.1;
• Durum wheat,	76.6;
• Total wheat,	808.7;
• Oats,	36.0;
• Barley,	555.8;
• Rye,	15.7;
• Flaxseed,	40.9;
• Canola (rapeseed),	261.8.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 976-981.

Order the March 1987 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007, \$10/\$100), scheduled for release in late May. Contact Allister Hickson (204-949-2856), Agriculture/Natural Resources Division, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0K4 or Anthony Dupuis (613-991-3871), Agriculture/Natural Resources Division, Ottawa.

## Exports of Major Grains March 1987

Export clearances of the major grains during March 1987 were as follows (in thousand tonnes):

• Total wheat,	1 604.4;
• Oats,	16.0;
• Barley,	419.5;
• Rye,	10.0;
• Flaxseed,	39.6;
• Canola (rapeseed),	146.9.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2650-2656.

Order the March 1987 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007, \$10/\$100), scheduled for release at the end of May. Contact Allister B. Hickson (204-949-2856), Agriculture/Natural Resources Division, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0K4 or T. Dupuis (613-991-3871) Agriculture/Natural Resources Division, Ottawa.

## **Exports of Wheat Flour and Barley Malt**

March 1987

Customs exports of wheat flour and barley malt during March 1987 were as follows (in thousand tonnes):

- Wheat flour, 34.6;
- Malt, 10.5.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5612 (series 1) and 5613.

Order the March 1987 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007, \$10/\$100), scheduled for release at the end of May. Contact Allister B. Hickson (204-949-2856), Agriculture/Natural Resources Division, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0K4 or Anthony Dupuis (613-991-3871) Agriculture/Natural Resources Division, Ottawa.

## **Mineral Wool**

April 1987

Manufacturers shipped 6 115 820 square metres of mineral wool (all R factors) in batts in April 1987, up 63.8% from the 3 734 278 square metres shipped a year earlier and up 44.1% from the 4 242 816 square metres shipped the previous month.

Year-to-date shipments to the end of April 1987 were 30 182 038 square metres, an increase of 13.7% from the same period in 1986.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 40 and 122 (series 32 and 33).

Order the April 1987 issue of *Mineral Wool including Fibrous Glass Insulation* (44-004, \$4/\$40), to be released the week of June 8. Contact Sharon M. Boyer (613-991-3520), Industry Division.

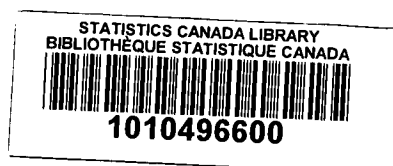
## **Notifiable Disease Summary**

Four-week Period Ending April 11, 1987

Statistics and new cases of notifiable diseases for the four-week period ending April 11, 1987 are now available by sex and five-year age group for Canada and the provinces.

Available on CANSIM: cross-classified table 00050123.

Contact Anna Brancker (613-991-1769), Health Division.



The Daily, May 22, 1987

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## Publications Released

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**Current Economic Indicators, Vol. 3, No. 4,**  
May 1987. Catalogue number 13-005  
(Canada: \$10/\$100; Other Countries:  
\$11/\$110).

**Fur Production, 1985-86.**  
Catalogue number 23-207  
(Canada: \$30; Other Countries: \$31).

**The Sugar Situation, March 1987.**  
Catalogue number 32-013  
(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

**Fruit and Vegetable Preservation Service  
Bulletin, Vol. 15, No. 2, Pack of Processed  
Raspberries, 1986.**  
Catalogue number 32-023  
(Canada: \$6/\$100; Other Countries: \$7/\$110).

**Fruit and Vegetable Preservation Service  
Bulletin, Vol. 15, No. 15, Pack of Processed  
Carrots, 1986. Catalogue number 32-023**  
(Canada: \$6/\$100; Other Countries: \$7/\$110).

**Rubber and Plastic Products Industries -  
Other Rubber Products Industries  
Including Tire and Tube Industry, 1985  
Census of Manufactures.**  
Catalogue number 33-250B 1598  
(Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

**Textile Products Industries - Other  
Textile Products Industries Including  
Tire Cord Fabric Industry,  
1985 Census of Manufactures.**  
Catalogue number 34-251B 1998  
(Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

**Clothing Industries - Fur Goods Industry,  
1985 Census of Manufactures.**  
Catalogue number 34-252B 2495  
(Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

**Construction Type Plywood, March 1987.**  
Catalogue number 35-001  
(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

**Rigid Insulating Board, March 1987.**  
Catalogue number 36-002  
(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

**Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances,  
March 1987. Catalogue number 43-003**  
(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

**Cement, March 1987.**  
Catalogue number 44-001  
(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

**Gypsum Products, March 1987.**  
Catalogue number 44-003  
(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

**Chemical and Chemical Products  
Industries - Paint and Varnish Industry,  
1985 Census of Manufactures.**  
Catalogue number 46-250B 3751  
(Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

**Railway Carloadings, 9-day Period Ending  
April 30, 1987. Catalogue number 52-005**  
(Canada: \$75; Other Countries: \$100).

**Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics,  
February 1987. Catalogue number 63-011**  
(Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60).

**Exports - Merchandise Trade, 1986.**  
Catalogue number 65-202  
(Canada: \$150; Other Countries: \$169.50).

**Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian  
Balance of International Payments, Fourth  
Quarter 1986. Catalogue number 67-001**  
(Canada: \$25/\$100; Other Countries:  
\$26/\$104).

**Federal Government Employment,  
October-December 1986.**  
Catalogue number 72-004  
(Canada: \$20/\$80; Other Countries: \$21/\$84).