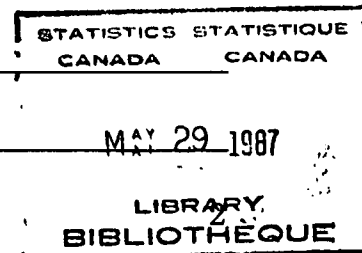


The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, May 29, 1987



Major Releases

Industrial Product Price Index, April 1987

- The year-over-year rate of change rose to 1.3%.

Raw Materials Product Price Index, April 1987

4

- The RMPI increased 8.9% over April 1986, the first year-to-year increase in 16 months.

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Major Releases

Industrial Product Price Index April 1987

Preliminary figures show the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1981=100) rose by 0.4% in April 1987. This monthly increase was largely attributable to a rise in price indexes for first-stage intermediate goods. Substantial increases were recorded for woodpulp, aluminum products and primary refined non-ferrous metals. Increases noted in some indexes for second-stage intermediate goods, such as synthetic resins and metal fabricated products, and in some finished goods indexes (principally those for food and beverages) also contributed, though to a smaller extent, to the monthly movement in the overall index. However, strong price decreases for softwood veneer and plywood and for petroleum and coal products had a moderating effect on the overall index.

The year-over-year advance of the IPPI from April 1986 to April 1987 was 1.3%, up sharply from the average of -0.3% observed during the first quarter of 1987. The strong rise in the yearly rate of change of the IPPI in April 1987 was the result of the appreciable monthly increase between March and April 1987 (0.4%), combined with the significant monthly decrease observed between March and April 1986 (-0.7%), which was mainly due to declines in petroleum prices. With the petroleum and coal products component excluded, the year-over-year advance of the IPPI would have been 2.5%, down slightly from the 2.6% recorded the previous month.

The price index for first-stage intermediate goods rose by 1.6% in April 1987, an increase of 4.6% from April 1986. This monthly increase resulted primarily from an increase of 4.6% in the price index for woodpulp. The woodpulp index had risen 6.0% on average in each quarter since the beginning of 1986. A rise of 5.3% in prices for aluminum products also contributed to the advance in the group index. Despite this strong monthly increase, prices remained down by 1.1% from April 1986. The monthly increase in the group index also resulted from a rise of 6.7% in the price index for primary refined non-ferrous metals. This

was in turn largely attributable to increases of 29.3% in silver prices and 10.5% in prices for refined gold bullion.

The price index for second-stage intermediate goods advanced by 0.3% in April 1987, but remained unchanged from its April 1986 level. Increases of 0.9% in the price index for synthetic resins and 1.2% for other metal fabricated products were the primary reasons for the monthly increase in the group index. Significant increases were recorded for phenol-formaldehyde resins (12.2%), synthetic resins (5.0%), metal roofing and siding (1.6%) and metal cans for food and non-food products (2.3%).

The price index for finished foods rose by 0.2% in April 1987, an increase of 4.4% from April 1986. The monthly advance resulted primarily from price increases of 1.3% for various beef cuts, 1.2% for pork, 3.3% for chocolate confectionery and 1.0% for distilled alcoholic beverages. However, these increases were partly offset by decreases of 8.6% for roasted or ground coffee and 5.7% for refined sugar.

Preliminary estimates indicate that the price index for petroleum and coal products fell by 1.5% in April 1987, dropping to a level 10.1% lower than that recorded a year earlier. A decline in fuel oil prices was the main reason for this monthly decrease in the group index.

The price index for softwood veneer and plywood declined by 2.4% in April 1987, a drop of 6.0% from April 1986. Softwood veneers fell by 3.2% in April 1987, while softwood plywood (other than Douglas fir) posted a decrease of 3.3%.

(see table on page 3)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1960-1967 and 1970.

Order the April 1987 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$15/\$150), available towards the end of June. Contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-990-9607), Prices Division.

Industrial Product Price Indexes

(1981 = 100)

Index	Relative Importance ¹	Index Apr. '87 ²	% change	
			Apr. '87/ Mar. '87	Apr. '87/ Apr. '86
Industrial Product Price Index - Total	100.0	120.8	0.4	1.3
Total IPPI excluding Petroleum and Coal products³	89.3	123.3	0.6	2.5
Intermediate goods	61.6	116.4	0.5	1.0
First stage intermediate goods	14.6	107.0	1.6	4.6
Second stage intermediate goods	47.0	119.3	0.3	0
Finished goods	38.4	127.7	0.2	1.4
Finished foods and feeds	10.3	130.5	0.2	4.4
Capital equipment	10.2	129.0	0.2	0.5
All other finished goods	17.9	125.3	0.1	0.2
Aggregation by commodities:				
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.7	123.7	0.4	7.1
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	7.0	117.5	-0.1	0.1
Beverages	1.9	140.6	0.1	1.6
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.7	152.7	1.1	9.2
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	2.8	119.7	0.4	2.4
Textile products	2.4	112.7	0.3	1.4
Knitted products and clothing	2.4	120.3	0.3	3.4
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	4.3	120.2	0.3	-1.2
Furniture and fixtures	1.5	132.2	0.3	4.5
Paper and paper products	8.1	125.4	1.4	8.6
Printing and publishing	2.4	140.3	0.1	6.0
Primary metal products	8.8	107.7	1.8	0.6
Metal fabricated products	5.3	125.4	0.8	3.0
Machinery and equipment	4.8	124.3	0.2	1.7
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	11.6	131.9	0.3	-0.5
Electrical and communication products	5.0	124.0	0	1.5
Non-metallic mineral products	2.5	134.3	0.3	3.7
Petroleum and coal products ³	10.7	100.0	-1.5	-10.1
Chemical, chemical products	7.1	117.2	0.5	-0.1
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.3	130.6	0.6	4.4
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.8	98.9	0.5	4.8

¹ Weights are derived from the "make" matrix of the 1981 Input/Output table.

² Indexes are preliminary.

³ This index is estimated for the current month.

Raw Materials Price Index

April 1987

Preliminary estimates show the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1981=100) increased 0.6% between March and April to a level of 99.0. This monthly increase was mainly the result of a 2.5% increase for the animal and animal products component and a 3.7% increase for the non-ferrous metals component. Of the seven components making up the Raw Materials Price Index, four registered increases while three decreased. The RMPI excluding the mineral fuels component increased 1.5% over the month to a level of 105.6.

After 15 consecutive months of registering year-to-year declines, the RMPI was up 8.9% in April over its year-earlier level. This sharp change was mainly due to increases in the mineral fuels component which were no longer counterbalanced in the year-to-year movement by its steep decline in the first quarter of 1986. Given that the index level of the RMPI remained fairly constant from April 1986 to August 1986, one might expect the 12-month movement of the RMPI to continue at similar magnitudes as this month for the next several months.

The RMPI excluding the mineral fuels component was up 3.2% between April 1986 and April 1987. Unlike the total RMPI which registered year-to-year decreases for 15 months until now, the RMPI excluding mineral fuels has registered 12-month increases for the past 17 months.

The animal and animal products component index rose 2.5% in April to a level of 117.5. The upward movement was due mainly to a 7.7% increase in the index for cattle and calves and to a 5.3% increase in the index for hogs and swine. Over the year, cattle and calves were up 14.6% and hogs and swine increased 14.9%. These monthly increases were partially offset by a 6.1% decrease for fur, hides and skins and a 4.3% decrease for fish. Over the year, the component index was up 9.5%.

After increasing 1.7% in March and 3.7% in April, the non-ferrous metals component stood at an index level of 91.3. This was 3.2% higher than its level in April 1986. The index for precious metals (gold, silver and platinum) was up 10.7% in April while the index for other base metals (molybdenum, titanium dioxide slag, tin, alumina, et al) was up 5.4% over the month. A 1.3% increase for lead prices in April left this index 36.5% higher than a year ago.

The index for the mineral fuels component dipped 0.9% in April after four consecutive monthly increases. Over the year the component index increased 17.7%. Crude oil was estimated to have decreased 1.5% in April. In spite of this decrease in April, crude oil was 23.9% higher than a year ago, but 39.6% lower than its May 1985 peak. Partly offsetting the effect of the crude oil decrease in April was a 4.2% increase for thermal coal.

The vegetable products component index was down 0.1% in April to a level 12.4% below April 1986. Grains continued to be weak as reflected by the 0.8% decline over the month. This index was 7.6% below its year-earlier level. Unrefined sugar was down 6.0% in April. Because of stronger prices for soybeans, the oilseed index increased 2.5% in April; however, it was still 15.5% lower than a year ago.

(see table on page 5)

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1980.

Order the April 1987 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$15/\$150), available towards the end of June. Contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-990-9607), Prices Division.

Raw Materials Price Index
(1981 = 100)

	Relative Importance	Index Apr. '87 ¹	% Change	
			Apr. '87/ Mar. '87	Apr. '87/ Apr. '86
Raw materials total	100	99.0	0.6	8.9
Mineral fuels	45	90.9	-0.9	17.7
Vegetable products	11	82.3	-0.1	-12.4
Animals and animal products	20	117.5	2.5	9.5
Wood products	8	118.2	-0.4	8.9
Ferrous materials	2	107.0	0.5	-3.6
Non-ferrous metals	11	91.3	3.7	3.2
Non-metallic minerals	3	129.2	0.3	0.0
Total excl. mineral fuels	55	105.6	1.5	3.2

¹ These indexes are preliminary.

Data Availability Announcements

Computer Services Industry 1985

Preliminary 1985 statistics on computer services show the industry continued to exhibit extremely rapid growth in terms of both revenue and employment. In 1985, revenues grew by 26% to \$2.2 billion and employment increased by 19% to almost 30,000.

Since 1983, when both revenue and employment increases were at a record low, the total wage bill as a proportion of expenses has grown from 38% to 45%, and the ratio of expenses to revenues has improved, dropping from a high of 97% in 1983 to 89% in 1985.

In relative terms, there has been a slight increase since 1984 in revenues generated by professional services, and compensating reductions in both software development and other computer services; service bureau activity appears to have remained constant. However, these shifts are not large enough to suggest a trend.

Order *Computer Services* (63-222, \$20), scheduled for release in August. Contact Craig Gaston (613-991-2196), Services Division.

Campus Bookstores 1985-86

Highlights

- Retail sales of 298 Canadian campus bookstores reached a total of \$263.6 million during the 1985-86 academic year, an increase of 11.8% from the previous year.
- The gross annual payroll was up by 11.6% to \$32.7 million. The number of full-time employees was estimated at 1,491.

- Textbooks accounted for 65.2% of total sales, other books 7.7%, stationery and supplies 14.4% and miscellaneous items accounted for 12.7%.

Order the 1986 issue of *Campus Bookstores* (63-219, \$15), available in late June. Contact the Retail Trade Section, Industry Division (613-990-9656).

Major Appliances

April 1987

Domestic sales of major appliances by Canadian manufacturers increased to 189,176 units in April 1987, up 5.9% from 178,647 units in March 1987 and up 16.9% from the 161,773 units sold in the same month of 1986.

Year-to-date domestic sales to April 1987 amounted to 665,296 units, up 9.4% from 607,855 units for the same period in 1986.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 65, 66 and 122 (series 30).

Order the April 1987 issue of *Production, Sales and Stocks of Major Appliances* (43-010, \$4/\$40), to be released the week of June 8. Contact J. P. Beauparlant (613-991-3526), Industry Division.

Sawmills in British Columbia

March 1987

Sawmills in British Columbia produced 3 391 900 cubic metres (1,437.4 million board feet) of lumber and ties in March 1987, an increase of 11.0% over the 3 056 300 cubic metres (1,295.2 million board feet) produced in March 1986.

January to March 1987 production was 9 598 600 cubic metres (4,067.7 million board feet), an increase of 6.3% over the 9 311 600 cubic metres (3,946.0 million board feet) produced over the same period in 1986.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 53 (series 1.2).

Order the March 1987 issue of *Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia* (35-003, \$6/\$60), to be released the week of June 8. Contact Jock Dobie (604-666-2671), B.C. and Yukon Regional Office, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3C9.

Asphalt Roofing

April 1987

Shipments of asphalt shingles totalled 3 015 923 bundles in April 1987, an increase of 13.9% from the 2 647 257 bundles shipped a year earlier.

January to April 1987 shipments reached 11 781 108 bundles, up 12.3% from the 10 487 664 bundles shipped during the same period in 1986.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 32 and 122 (series 27 and 28).

Order the April 1987 issue of *Asphalt Roofing* (45-001, \$4/\$40), to be released the week of June 15. Contact Jacques Lepage (613-991-3510), Industry Division.

Electric Power Selling Price Indexes

January-April 1987

Electric power selling price indexes (1981=100) are now available from January 1987 to April 1987.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1979.

Order the April 1987 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$15/\$150), available at the end of June. Contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-990-9607), Prices Division.

Other Publishing Industries

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the other publishing industries (SIC 2839) totalled \$1,004.5 million, up 14.1% from \$880.5 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5501 and to be released shortly in catalogue 36-251B 2839. Commodity data for this industry will become available in August.

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

Metal Closure and Container Industry

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the metal closure and container industry (SIC 3042) totalled \$1,243.5 million, up 7.2% from \$1,159.6 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5525 and to be released shortly in catalogue 41-251B 3042. Commodity data for this industry will become available in August.

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

**Electric Lamp and Shade Industry
(Except Bulb and Tube)**

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the electric lamp and shade industry (except bulb and tube) (SIC 3332) totalled \$79.0 million, down 2.3% from \$80.8 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5571 and to be released shortly in catalogue 43-250B 3332. Commodity data for this industry will become available in August.

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

**Glass Product Industry (Except
Glass Containers)**

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the glass product industry (except glass containers) (SIC 3562) totalled \$618.4 million, up 18.6% from \$522.9 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 6857 and to be released shortly in catalogue 44-250B 3562. Commodity data for this industry will become available in August.

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

**Record Player, Radio and
Television Receiver Industry**

1985 Census of Manufactures

In 1985, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the record player, radio and television receiver industry (SIC 3341) totalled \$603.6 million, up 37.4% from \$439.3 million in 1984.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5573 and to be released shortly in catalogue 43-250B 3341. Commodity data for this industry will become available in August.

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

Publications Released

**Inventories, Shipments and Orders in
Manufacturing Industries, February 1987.**
Catalogue Number 31-001
(Canada: \$15/\$150; Other Countries:
\$16/\$160).

**Selected Service Industries in
Canada, 1982-1984.**
Catalogue Number 63-231
(Canada: \$22; Other Countries: \$23).

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* Release dates for these series are firm. Dates for the other series are subject to slight change.

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
June		
1	National Balance Sheet Accounts	1986
2	Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics	First Quarter 1987
2	Retail Trade	March 1987
2	Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments	First Quarter 1987
3	Census of Agriculture	1986
4	Canada - United States Trade Reconciliation	1986
5*	Labour Force Survey	May 1987
5	New Housing Price Index	April 1987
8	Travel Between Canada and Other Countries	April 1987
9-10	Canadian Composite Leading Indicator	March 1987
10*	Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade	April 1987
10	Department Store Sales by Region and Metropolitan Area	April 1987
10	Farm Product Price Index	April 1987
11	New Motor Vehicle Sales	April 1987
11	Help-wanted Index	May 1987
12	Housing Starts	April 1987
15-19	Gross Domestic Product	First Quarter 1987

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
June		
17	Sales of Refined Petroleum Products	April 1987
18-19	Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries	April 1987
19*	The Consumer Price Index	May 1987
19	Retail Trade	April 1987
22	Department Store Sales and Stocks	April 1987
22-24	Capacity Utilization Rates in Manufacturing Industries	First Quarter 1987
23-26	Canada's Foreign Trade in Automotive Products	First Quarter 1987
24	Unemployment Insurance Statistics	April 1987
25	Building Permits	April 1987
25	Employment, Earnings and Hours	April 1987
26	Wholesale Trade	April 1987
26	Security Transactions with Non-residents	April 1987
26	Financial Activity in Canada	First Quarter 1987
26-29	Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost by Industry	April 1987
30	Industrial Product Price Index	May 1987
30	Raw Materials Price Index	May 1987
30	Major Release Dates	July 1987

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Contact Greg Thomson (613-991-1103), Communications Division.

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