

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, June 12, 1987

Major Releases

Building Permits, April 1987

- The value of building permits fell 15.4% from March to \$2.3 billion.

Changes in the Distribution of Wealth in Canada, 1970-1984

- In 1984, the average wealth of Canadian families was approximately \$104,222 while that of unattached individuals was \$38,146.

Data Availability Announcements

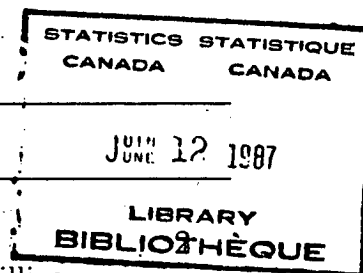
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Major Releases

Chart 1
Value of Building Permits Issued in Canada

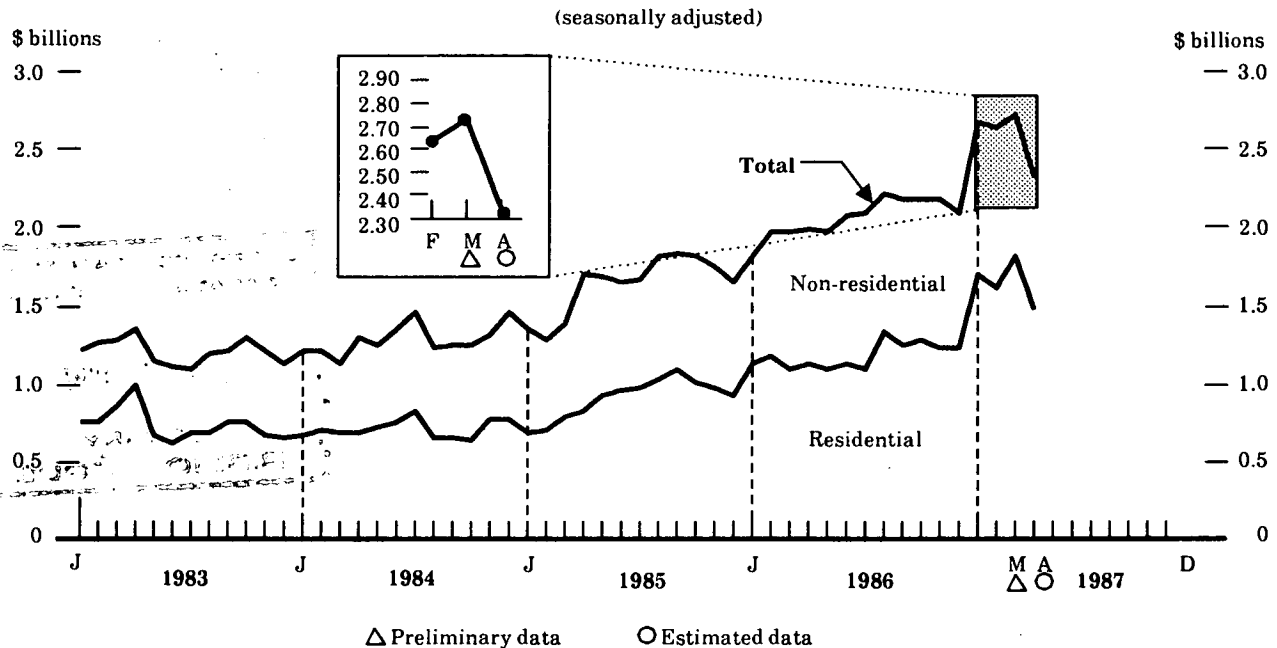
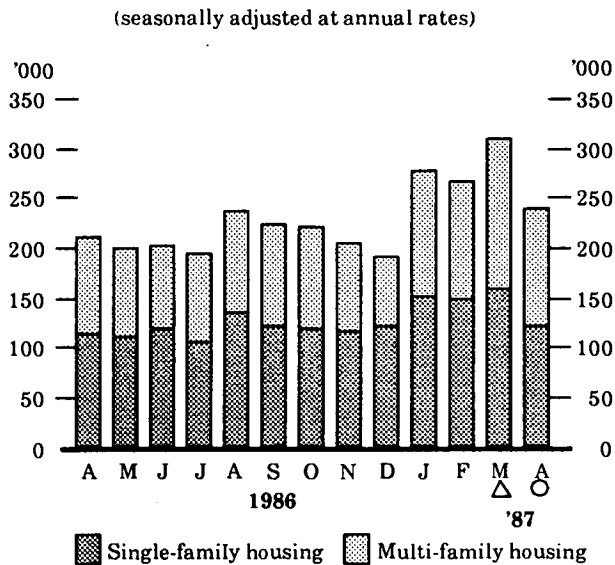
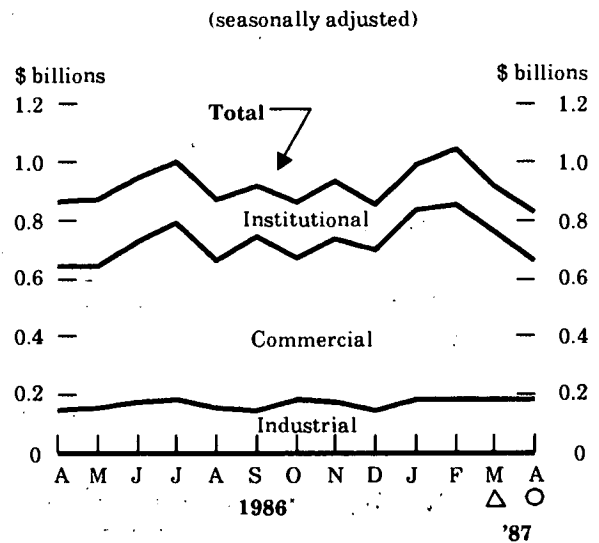


Chart 2
Dwelling Units Authorized in Canada



△ Preliminary data

Chart 3
Value of Non-residential permits issued in Canada



○ Estimated data

Building Permits

April 1987

(Seasonally adjusted data and filtered indexes)

Summary

The estimated value of building permits issued in April was \$2,310.6 million, down 15.4% from \$2,731.3 million in March. The decrease was mainly attributable to the residential sector, which registered a drop of 18.1%, and to a lesser extent, the non-residential sector, down 9.9%.

The construction leading indicator rose 1.8% in February to 121.0 compared to a revised index of 118.8 in January. The slowdown of building permits in April did not affect the leading indicator which continued to post a very strong advance.

Residential Sector

- The estimated value of residential building permits issued decreased 18.1% in April to \$1,485.1 million compared to \$1,814.3 million in March.
- This slowing of residential construction intentions is attributable to decreases observed in both the single-family dwelling sector (down 18.1% to \$1,006.5 million) and the multi-family dwelling sector (down 18.3% to \$478.6 million).
- The number of dwellings authorized in April totalled 246,400 units (at an annual rate), a drop of 21.3%. The total comprised 124,800 single-detached and 121,600 multiple dwellings. The number of dwelling units for March (preliminary data) was 313,300 - only the second time this level has surpassed 300,000 units.
- All regions registered decreases in the number of dwelling units authorized in April except British Columbia which remained stable.

Non-residential sector

- The estimated value of non-residential building permits dropped 9.9% in April to \$825.5 million compared to \$917.0 in March.

- The industrial component remained stable at \$183.7 million while the governmental sector slipped slightly (-1.8%) to \$156.8 million. The commercial component registered a substantial decrease (-15.6%) to \$485.0 million.
- The Atlantic region and Western Canada registered increases in the value of non-residential permits while Quebec and Ontario registered decreases.
- The filtered index of non-residential permits, which has decreased continuously since November 1986, declined slightly (-0.6%) to 92.9 in February. This slowdown has been strongly influenced by the decrease in the government sector that has been taking place for many months.

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: matrices 80 (level 3, 5, 9-15) and 129, 137, 443, 989-991, 994, 995 and 4073.

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

Changes in the Distribution of Wealth in Canada 1970-1984

Between 1970 and 1984, wealth inequalities among families and unattached individuals in Canada were slightly reduced, with most of the change occurring in the first half of this period. But most wealth continues to be owned by a relatively small proportion of the population.

The report, *Changes in the Distribution of Wealth in Canada, 1970-1984*, provides data on wealth of both unattached individuals and families and examines differences by age. The data are based on three Statistics Canada surveys on wealth, taken in 1970, 1977 and 1984. Highlights from this report include:

- In 1984, the average (mean) wealth of Canadian families was approximately \$104,222 while that of unattached individuals was \$38,146. Half of Canadian families held wealth valued at more than \$55,859; the median wealth of unattached individuals that year was valued at \$8,338.
- In 1984, the average wealth of families and unattached individuals taken together was \$85,344 in current dollars - 4.7 times the \$18,189 average for 1970. In 1984, income was 3.8 times the 1970 level.

- Among families and unattached individuals, the value of real assets (e.g. homes, cars) is far more equally distributed than most financial assets (e.g. stocks, bonds).
- Equity in homes remains the most important component of wealth, although by 1984 there were signs of its share in total wealth levelling off; in 1984 equity in homes constituted 39.4% of total wealth.
- Wealth is more equally distributed among the young than among the old; this pattern has remained quite stable from 1970 to 1984.
- As expected, the elderly continue to have fewer debts than the young and they hold an above-average share of securities and deposits.

Order *Changes in the Distribution of Wealth in Canada, 1970-1984* (13-588, \$12), now available. Contact Raj Chawla (613-991-6901), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

Data Availability Announcements

Steel Ingots and Pig Iron

May 1987

Preliminary steel ingot production for May 1987 reached 1 305 000 tonnes, an increase of 6.1% from 1 229 861 tonnes the previous year. Year-to-date steel ingot production totalled 6 318 518 tonnes, an increase of 4.4% from 6 050 761 tonnes for the same period the previous year.

Preliminary pig iron production, at 865 000 tonnes in May, was up 6.6% from 811 816 tonnes a year earlier. Year-to-date pig iron production totalled 4 184 678 tonnes, an increase of 5.7% compared to 3 960 120 tonnes for the same period the previous year.

Order the May 1987 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$4/\$40), available the week of July 29. Contact Gerry Barrett (613-991-3515), Industry Division.

Steel Ingots

April 1987

Steel ingot production for April 1987 totalled 1 282 297 tonnes, an increase of 0.5% from 1 275 333r (revised figure) tonnes the previous year.

Year-to-date production reached 5 013 518 tonnes, an increase of 4.0% from 4 820 900r tonnes a year earlier.

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

Order the April 1987 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$4/\$40), to be released the week of July 6. Contact Gerry Barrett (613-991-3515), Industry Division.

Sugar Sales

May 1987

Canadian sugar refiners reported total sales of 85 453 126 kilograms for all types of sugar in May 1987, comprising 82 240 740 kilograms in domestic sales and 3 212 386 kilograms in export sales. The 1987 year-to-date sales reported for all types of sugar totalled 397 366 190 kilograms, 374 646 246 kilograms in domestic sales and 22 719 944 in export sales.

This compares to total sales of 89 440 000 kilograms in May 1986, of which 84 932 000 kilograms were domestic sales and 4 508 000 kilograms were export sales. The 1986 year-to-date sales reported for all types of sugar totalled 406 926 000 kilograms: 383 943 000 kilograms in domestic sales and 22 983 000 in export sales.

Order the May 1987 issue of *The Sugar Situation* (32-013, \$4/\$40), to be released the week of July 6. Contact Brian Preston (613-991-3511), Industry Division.

Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes

April 1987

Canadian manufacturers produced 3,170,388 phonograph records in April 1987, down 12.6% from the 3,626,797 produced a year earlier. Production of tapes increased to 3,217,199 in April 1987, up 5.3% from 3,055,444 tapes in April 1986.

Year-to-date production of phonograph records amounted to 14,559,259 – up 0.3% from the 14,508,837 records produced during the January to April 1986 period. Cumulative production of tapes increased 9.2% to 14,049,752 from 12,865,706 tapes during the same period in 1986.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2904.

Order the April 1987 issue of *Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada* (47-004, \$4/\$40), to be released mid-June. Contact Don Grant (613-991-3521), Industry Division.

Construction Type Plywood

April 1987

Canadian firms produced 185 096 cubic metres (209,172,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) of construction type plywood during April 1987, a decrease of 3.8% from the 192 322 cubic metres (217,337,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) produced during April 1986.

January to April 1987 production totalled 745 713 cubic metres (842,709,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis), an increase of 2.3% over the 728 865 cubic metres (823,669,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) produced during the same period in 1986.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).

Order the April 1987 issue of *Construction Type Plywood* (35-001, \$4/\$40), to be released the week of June 29. Contact Jock Dobie (604-666-2671), British Columbia and Yukon Regional Office, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3C9.

Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics

April 1987

Pulpwood receipts amounted to 2 305 112 cubic metres in April 1987, an increase of 3.3% from 2 230 561 cubic metres a year earlier. Receipts of wood residue totalled 4 750 490 cubic metres, up 6.7% from 4 453 681 cubic metres in April 1986.

Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue was reported at 8 403 353 cubic metres, an increase of 10.7% from the 7 592 200 cubic metres reported the previous year. The closing inventory of pulpwood and wood residue totalled 18 061 494 cubic metres, a decrease of 10.3% from 20 133 172 cubic metres a year earlier.

Year-to-date receipts of pulpwood were 15 523 655 cubic metres, an increase of 11.6% from 13 908 870 cubic metres a year earlier. Receipts of wood residue increased 14.3% to 18 353 085 cubic metres from the year-earlier level of 16 061 471 cubic metres. Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue, at 33 530 294 cubic metres, was up 8.8% from 30 817 788 cubic metres a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 54.

Order the April 1987 issue of *Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics* (25-001, \$5/\$50), to be released the week of June 22. Contact Jacques Lepage (613-991-3510), Industry Division.

Export and Import Price Indexes

April 1987

Current and fixed weighted export and import price indexes, on a balance of payments basis, are now available on a 1981 = 100 basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1981 to April 1987 for the seven commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3633-3638.

Customs based current and fixed weighted U.S. price indexes are also available. Price indexes are listed from January 1981 to April 1987 on a 1981 = 100 basis. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 "All Countries" and "U.S. Only" SITC section indexes.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3639-3642.

Order the April 1987 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$15/\$150), available the last week of June. Contact J. Butterill (613-991-4804), Price Index Unit, International Trade Division.

Publications Released

Income After Tax, Distributions by Size in Canada, 1985. Catalogue number 13-210
(Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21).

Changes in the Distribution of Wealth in Canada, 1970-1984.

Catalogue number 13-588
(Canada: \$12; Other Countries: \$13).

**Canada's Mineral Production:
Preliminary Estimates, 1986.**
Catalogue number 26-202
(Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics, March 1987.

Catalogue number 53-003
(Canada: \$6.50/\$65; Other Countries: \$7.50/\$75).

Quarterly Hospital Information System - Hospital Indicators,
April 1986 - December 1986.

Catalogue number 83-002
(Canada: \$15/\$60; Other Countries: \$16/\$64).

Statistics Canada publications may be purchased by mail order from Publication Sales, Room 1710, Main Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6 or phone 613-993-7276.

Please enclose cheque or money order payable to the Receiver General for Canada/Publications and provide full information on publications required (catalogue number, title, issue).

Publications may also be ordered through Statistics Canada's offices in St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Sturgeon Falls, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver, or from authorized bookstore agents or other booksellers.

Major Release Dates: Week of June 15 - 19

(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
June		
15-16	Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments	First Quarter 1987
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
19-22	Retail Trade	April 1987

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