

The Daily

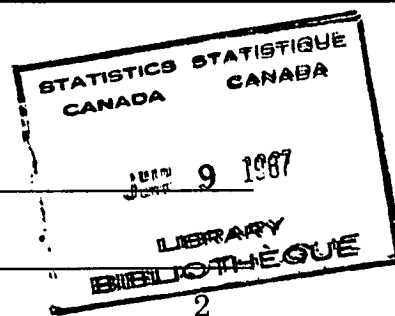
Statistics Canada

Tuesday, June 9, 1987

Major Release

Department Store Sales and Stocks, March 1987

- Seasonally adjusted, department store sales decreased by 0.3% from February.



Data Availability Announcements

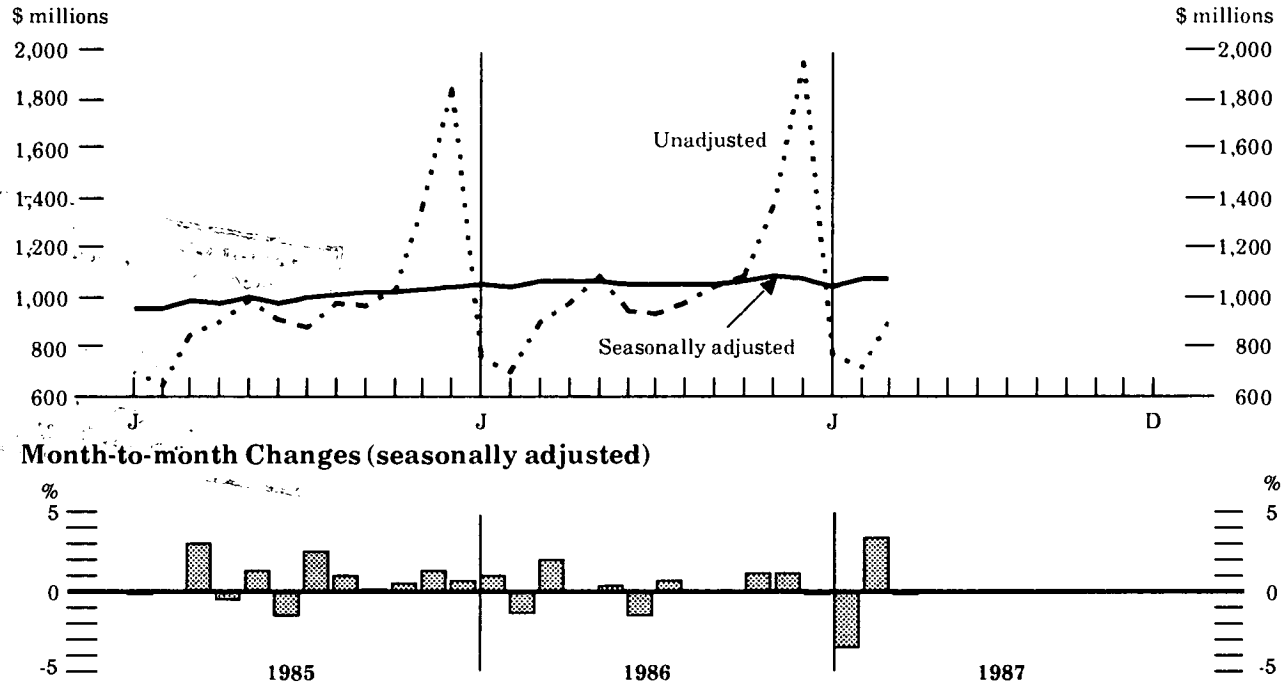
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Publication Released 5



Major Release

Department Store Sales, by Month, Unadjusted and Seasonally Adjusted, Canada, 1985-1987



Department Store Sales and Stocks March 1987

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted Data

- Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, department store sales in March 1987 totalled \$1,072 million, a modest decrease of 0.3% from the previous month's revised total of \$1,075 million. Lower sales were recorded in 22 of the 40 departments.
- During the first three months of 1987, department store sales fluctuated significantly with an overall quarterly decline of 1.2%, compared to an increase of 1.9% in the last quarter of 1986.

- Seasonally adjusted, department store stocks (at selling value) totalled \$4,603 million at the end of March 1987, up 4.3% over the February 1987 revised value of \$4,413 million. This increase followed a decrease of 9.4% in January and a rise of 6.2% in February.
- The inventories to sales ratio stood at 4.29:1 in March, up from the average ratio of 4.11:1 observed in the three previous months.

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Unadjusted Data

- Department stores in Canada reported sales totalling \$898 million in March 1987, down 0.5% from the March 1986 level of \$903 million. For the first quarter of 1987, total department store sales reached \$2,391 million, an increase of 1.0% compared to the same period in 1986.
- Seven provinces posted department store sales decreases in March 1987 from the year-earlier period, with declines ranging from 9.5% in Alberta to 2.4% in New Brunswick. Increases were recorded in Prince Edward Island (+13.3%), Ontario (+3.8%) and Quebec (+2.7%). Sales declined in six of the 10 metropolitan areas surveyed.
- Sales by major department stores in March 1987 totalled \$540 million, down 2.9% from the corresponding month a year earlier, while junior department stores had sales of \$358 million, up 3.3% over the same period last year.

- Unadjusted, department store stocks at month-end totalled \$4,649 million, an increase of 11.2% over the level reached in March 1986.

Note to Users:

Data users should note that unadjusted and seasonally adjusted data for 1986 have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 112.

Order the March 1987 issue of *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (63-002, \$13/\$130), available the third week of July. Contact Roger Laplante (613-991-3549), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

Data Availability Announcements

Housing Starts

April 1987

Highlights

Total (all areas)

- Seasonally adjusted at annual rates, housing starts in April dropped 10.5% to 239,000 units from 267,000 in March.
- This drop reflected declines in starts for both the single- and multiple-family dwelling sectors.

Urban Centres (10,000 population and over)

- Compared to March, an 11.7% decline in housing starts was observed in urban centres.
- Only the Atlantic region reported an increase in housing starts in April. British Columbia remained stable while all other regions posted declines.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 25 and 29.

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

Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins

April 1987

Canadian chemical firms produced 107 801 tonnes of polyethylene synthetic resins in April 1987, an increase of 10.2% from the 97 858 tonnes produced in April 1986.

January to April 1987 production totalled 403 940 tonnes, up 11.0% from the level reached during the same period a year earlier.

Also available are figures on Canadian production of three other types of synthetic resins and 28 industrial chemicals for April 1987, along with corresponding cumulatives and 1986 data.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 951.

Order the April 1987 issue of *Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins* (46-002, \$5/\$50), to be released the last week of June. Contact Raj Sehdev (613-991-3513), Industry Division.

Per Capita Food Consumption in Canada

1979-1985 Updates

Updates to the apparent per capita consumption of apples, total fruit, and fish are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 00190105 and 00190112.

Contact L. Magahay (613-990-8727), Agriculture Division.

Publication Released

**Preliminary Statement of Canadian
International Trade, April 1987.**

Catalogue number 65-001P

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

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