

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, July 8, 1987

Major Releases

Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics, First Quarter 1987

- Final figures show seasonally adjusted pre-tax profits increased 14.4% from the previous quarter.

Construction Union Wage Rate Index, May 1987

- Construction union wage rates at the Canada level rose 5.9% from a year earlier.

(continued on page 2)

Statistics Canada's New World Trade Data Base

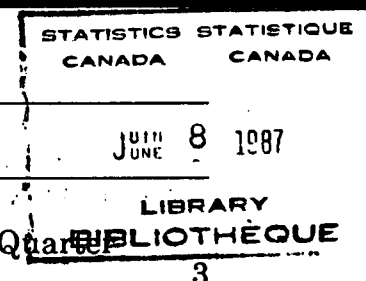
Statistics Canada today launched the World Trade Data Base. The data base covers about 1,800 commodities traded between some 100 member countries of the United Nations. These countries, in turn, comprise some 200 customs areas and territories. Data are now available on an annual basis for the period 1979 to 1984.

The World Trade Data Base also has a special subset dedicated to trade between Canada and the United States. This subset contains information on Canadian trade by province of entry, clearance, lading and exit and on U.S. trade by states of origin or destination.

To facilitate the work of users of the new data base, Statistics Canada has adjusted data on trade between countries to ensure standardization of concepts and measurements. The data base will be expanded in the near future to include data on production, employment and wages. Future additions will be tailored to suit the needs of those utilizing the data base.

Available on CANSIM: tables 03000102 and 03000103.

Contact Steve Douville (613-990-1711) or Yvan Bedard (613- 991-1185).



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Data Availability Announcements

Census Final Population and Dwelling Counts, 1986	7
Steel Ingots, Week Ending July 4, 1987	7
Railway Financial and Operating Statistics, December 1986	7
Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins, May 1987	8
Average Hourly Earnings (excluding overtime) in Building Construction, 1987	8
Selected Financial Indexes, May 1987	8
Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, May 1987	8
Federal Government Finance, Revenue and Expenditure, 1985-88	8

Publications Released

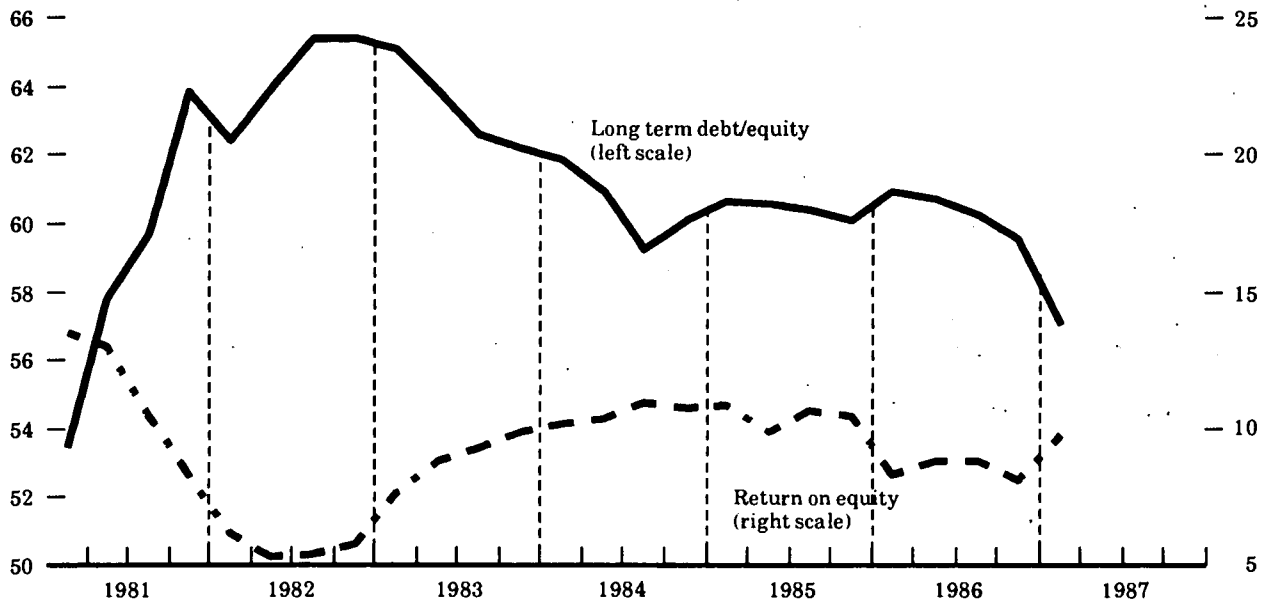
9

Regional Reference Centres

10

Major Releases

Industrial Corporations - Financial Ratios



Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics

First Quarter 1987

Seasonally adjusted final figures for the first quarter of 1987 show industrial corporations' profits rose 14.4% to a level of \$10.3 billion. This followed three quarters of little growth.

The mineral fuels and petroleum industries accounted for almost \$1 billion of the pre-tax profit increase in the latest quarter, but almost half of this increase was the result of foreign currency gains. An increase in crude oil prices also contributed to the gain in profits.

Other industries recording profit increases in the first quarter were paper and allied products, chemical and chemical products, and wood products. The largest decrease in pre-tax profits was in the transportation equipment industry, due to a decline in exports.

Balance Sheet Data Summary Corporations with Assets Exceeding \$10 Million (unadjusted for seasonality)

First quarter balance sheet data show a \$4.7 billion increase in fixed assets, the largest gain since the second quarter of 1982. Over half of the increase was accounted for by the mineral fuels industry and real estate developers, and was largely due to large corporate takeovers. Quarterly increases in fixed assets over the past five years averaged \$2.4 billion.

Share capital rose \$3.5 billion in the first quarter of 1987 following a \$3.7 billion increase in the previous quarter. Both increases were well above the \$2.1 billion average of the past five years.

(continued on page 4)

Balance Sheet Ratios

Return on Equity: profitability, as measured by the rate of return on shareholders' equity, rose to 9.8% in the first quarter from 8.1% in the previous quarter, and the 1985-86 average of 9.5%. Historically, it compares to a low of 5.3% registered during the 1982 recession and a high of 18.6% recorded in 1979.

Long-term debt to equity: liquidity, as measured by the ratio of long-term debt to shareholders' equity, continued to improve for the fourth consecutive quarter - to a level of 57.0% in the first quarter of 1987. This is the lowest long-term debt to equity ratio registered since the first quarter of 1981 when the ratio was 53.4%. The improvement reflected both a reduction in the long-term debt levels as well as the strong share capital buildup.

Coverage

The information covers non-government owned corporations in Canada except those in the agriculture, fishing and finance industries. Income statement information for corporations of all sizes and balance sheet and income statement information for corporations with assets exceeding \$10 million are now available. More detailed statistics for the 47 industry groups are now available on CANSIM: matrices 4780-4921 and 4928-4942.

Order the first quarter issue of *Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics* (61-003, \$50/\$200), available the fourth week of August. Contact Gail Campbell or Bill Potter (613-990-9843), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.

Industrial Corporations: Selected Financial Statistics
(Corporations with Assets Exceeding \$10 million)

	1st Q 1987	4th Q 1986	3rd Q 1986	2nd Q 1986
(\$ billions)				
Current Assets	139.5	140.7	140.8	140.4
Short-term investments	19.3	21.0	20.4	19.7
Accounts Receivable	54.8	53.8	55.3	55.5
Inventories	54.1	54.2	53.9	54.6
Current Liabilities	102.6	103.0	100.5	102.3
Bank Loans	19.3	18.2	18.8	20.0
Accounts Payable	57.0	58.3	55.1	56.1
Working Capital (Current Assets minus Current Liabilities)	37.0	37.7	40.3	38.1
Long-term Investments	84.4	85.2	80.8	78.3
Fixed Assets	226.9	222.2	223.2	222.5
Total Assets	465.2	461.2	457.4	453.4
Long-term Debt	107.2	110.1	110.8	109.4
Bank Loans	31.1	33.3	33.2	33.9
Bonds	41.7	42.6	43.0	41.4
Shareholders equity	188.0	185.0	183.9	180.3
Share Capital	88.6	85.1	81.5	78.5
Retained Earnings	85.7	87.0	89.9	89.4
Capital Expenditures	8.0	9.2	8.0	8.1
Income Statement (Seasonally Adjusted)				
Sales	110.5	112.4	107.5	109.0
Pre-tax Profits	7.6	6.3	6.6	6.7
After-tax profits	4.6	3.8	4.0	4.0
Ratios				
Return on Equity (After-tax Profits/Equity) %	9.8%	8.1%	8.8%	8.8%
Long-term Debt/Equity %	57.0%	59.5%	60.2%	60.7%

All Asset Sizes
Selected Income Statement Data
(Seasonally Adjusted)

(\$ billions)				
Sales	191.7	190.8	186.3	186.4
Pre-tax profits	10.3	9.0	9.1	9.1
After-tax profits	6.4	5.6	5.8	5.6

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

May 1987

The Canada total Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for construction trades rose 2.9% in May to a level of 140.7.

In May, all 16 trades monitored in the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba received wage increments, as did six trades in Saint John and 10 trades in Halifax. St. John's registered no change from the previous month, while cities in British Columbia will continue at their present wage levels until April 30, 1988.

On a year-over-year basis, the 18-city Canada composite construction union wage rate index rose 5.9%. Regionally, the largest 12-month increase occurred in Quebec (8.3%). Ontario cities showed an average gain of 7.1% with Ottawa's increase of 8% the largest in the province. In the Atlantic region, increments

realized by certain trades raised the composite index by 4.2%. Winnipeg, at 2.4%, registered the smallest annual gain of any city outside of British Columbia.

Six trades in Halifax (steel erectors, ironworkers, sheet metal workers, bricklayers, painters and roofers) are currently negotiating a new settlement.

Cities in Saskatchewan and Alberta are excluded from the accompanying table and the Canada composite index as no collective agreements have been signed for the majority of construction trades in these two provinces.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 400-405, 956 and 958.

Order the second quarter 1987 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), available in September. Contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-990-9607), Prices Division.

Construction Union Wage Rate Indexes, Basic Rate plus Supplements

May 1987

(1981 = 100)

	May '87	Apr. '87	May '86	% Change	
				May '87/ Apr. 87	May '87/ May 86
Canada	140.7	136.8	132.8	2.9	5.9
St. John's	142.5	142.5	134.2	-	6.2
Halifax	164.7	160.6	160.4	2.6	2.7
Saint John	141.3	140.7	134.3	0.4	5.2
Quebec City	142.5	136.8	131.5	4.2	8.4
Chicoutimi	141.8	136.2	131.0	4.1	8.2
Montreal	142.2	136.5	131.2	4.2	8.4
Ottawa	146.7	141.6	135.8	3.6	8.0
Toronto	142.3	137.6	132.4	3.4	7.5
Hamilton	142.6	138.1	133.0	3.3	7.2
St. Catharines	142.6	138.8	134.7	2.7	5.9
Kitchener	146.3	141.8	137.2	3.2	6.6
London	145.5	141.4	136.9	2.9	6.3
Windsor	142.4	138.4	134.3	2.9	6.0
Sudbury	143.8	140.0	136.1	2.7	5.7
Thunder Bay	143.2	139.0	135.0	3.0	6.1
Winnipeg	136.1	133.2	132.9	2.2	2.4
Vancouver	132.1	132.1	132.1	-	-
Victoria	132.1	132.1	132.1	-	-

- Nil or zero.

Data Availability Announcements

Census Final Population and Dwelling Counts 1986

Two diskette packages (IBM/PC or compatible) are now available containing final population and dwelling counts from the 1986 Census.

National Summary Package

The national summary package contains a set of four regional diskettes. Each diskette includes 1981 population counts (adjusted to the 1986 boundaries where changes have occurred), 1986 population counts (excluding incompletely enumerated Indian reserves) and 1986 private dwellings, for provinces, census divisions, census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations for all of Canada, as well as census subdivision data for one region. (Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Ontario, and Western provinces and Territories).

Regional diskettes are priced at \$75 each. The all-Canada set of four diskettes is \$250.

Census Metropolitan Area/Census Tract (CMA/CT) Diskettes

The CMA/CT package provides census information at the census tract level for all tracted centres, and at the total and primary component levels for census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations. Data content includes the same population and dwelling counts as the national summary package listed above, as well as percent change in the population from 1981 to 1986, land area and population density.

The package contains a set of five regional diskettes: Atlantic provinces (\$75), Quebec (\$150), Ontario excluding the Toronto CMA (\$140), Toronto (\$125), and Western provinces (\$150). Ottawa-Hull appears on both the Ontario and Quebec diskettes. The all-Canada set of five diskettes is priced at \$500.

For further information, or to order, contact Mary Townson (613-991-1139) or the nearest Statistics Canada regional reference centre.

Steel Ingots

Week Ending July 4, 1987

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian steel ingot production for the week ending July 4, 1987 totalled 289 997 tonnes, a decrease of 0.2% from the preceding week's total of 290 695 tonnes but up 6.1% from the year-earlier level of 273 285 tonnes.

The cumulative total in 1987 was 7 773 300 tonnes, an increase of 4.4% from 7 445 646 tonnes for the same period in 1986.

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

Railway Financial and Operating Statistics

December 1986

The seven major railways reported a combined net loss from operations of \$27.1 million in December 1986. Operating revenues of \$676.8 million were up \$58.4 million from the 1985 figure.

Revenue freight tonne-kilometres were down 2.8% during the month. Freight train-kilometres registered a decrease of 5.2% while freight car-kilometres decreased by 4.5%.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 142.

Order the December 1986 issue of *Railway Financial and Operating Statistics* (52-003, \$9.50/\$95), to be released the third week of July. Contact the Rail Unit (613-991-2484), Transportation Division.

Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins

May 1987

Canadian chemical firms produced 91 743 tonnes of polyethylene synthetic resins in May 1987, a decrease of 5.2% from the 96 778 tonnes produced in May 1986. January to May 1987 production totalled 495 683 tonnes, up 7.6% 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 May 1987, along with corresponding cumulatives and 1986 data.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 951.

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

Average Hourly Earnings, (excluding overtime), in Building Construction

1987

Monthly figures are now available on CANSIM for average hourly earnings excluding overtime and the corresponding indexes, seasonally adjusted, for the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 396 and 418.

Order the second quarter 1987 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/60), available in September. Contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-990-9607), Prices Division.

Selected Financial Indexes

May 1987

May 1987 figures are now available for the selected financial indexes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 412.

Order the second quarter 1987 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), available in September. Contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-990-9607), Prices Division.

Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics

May 1987

Pulpwood receipts amounted to 2 485 265 cubic metres in May 1987, an increase of 3.4% from 2 403 644 cubic metres a year earlier. Receipts of wood residue totalled 4 588 472 cubic metres, up 12.7% from 4 071 826 cubic metres in May 1986.

Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue was reported at 8 058 284 cubic metres, an increase of 2.2% from the 7 883 909 cubic metres reported the previous year. The closing inventory of pulpwood and wood residue totalled 170 012 cubic metres, a decrease of 8.1% from 18 507 712 cubic metres a year earlier.

Year-to-date receipts of pulpwood totalled 18 017 231 cubic metres, an increase of 11.9% from 16 098 698 cubic metres a year earlier. Receipts of wood residue increased 13.6% to 22 866 654 cubic metres from the year-earlier level of 20 133 297 cubic metres. Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue, at 41 557 238 cubic metres, was up 7.4% from 38 701 697 cubic metres a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 54.

Order the May 1987 issue of *Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics* (25-001, \$5/\$50), to be released the week of July 20. Contact Jacques Lepage (613-991-3510), Industry Division.

Federal Government Finance, Revenue and Expenditure

1985-88

1985/86 actual data, 1986/87 estimates and 1987/88 forecast data are available at 10:00 a.m. today on matrices 2777 and 2778 of the CANSIM network.

Contact G. Huneault (613-991-1812), Public Institutions Division.

Publications Released

Canadian Statistical Review, June 1987.

Catalogue number 11-003E

(Canada: \$20/\$200; Other Countries:
\$21.50/\$215)

Cereals and Oilseeds Review, April 1987.

Catalogue number 22-007

(Canada: \$10/\$100; Other Countries:
\$11/\$110).

Mineral Wool Including Fibrous

Glass Insulation, May 1987.

Catalogue number 44-004

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

Canned and Frozen Fruits and

Vegetables, March 1987.

Catalogue number 32-011

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

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Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from Statistics Canada's computerized data retrieval systems CANSIM and Telichart. A telephone inquiry service is also available with toll free numbers for regional clients outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services – from seminars to consultations – are offered. Call or write your regional reference centre for information.

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