

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, December 15, 1988

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## Major Release

### Energy Intensiveness and Economic Performance Since 1971 2

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### The Canadian Economic Observer

December 1988

The December issue of the *Canadian Economic Observer*, Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, is now available.

The December issue contains a monthly summary of the economy, major economic and statistical events in November, the third quarter National Accounts, and a feature article on energy and external trade patterns since 1971 (see page 2). A statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

*The Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$20/\$200) can now be ordered from Publication Sales (613-951-7277). See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162), International and Financial Economics Division.



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## Major Release

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### Energy Intensiveness and Economic Performance Since 1971

The recent debate on the free trade accord brought back into the public domain a discussion of energy pricing as a tool in economic development. In particular, it was suggested that the ability to lower the domestic price of energy relative to world prices could be used to influence economic growth, either regionally or nationally.

During the 1970s and early 1980s, Canada had an explicit policy of keeping domestic energy prices below world levels. An article in this month's *Canadian Economic Observer* by Kirk Hamilton examines the evidence concerning the effects this had on our external trade during this period.

Highlights of the study include:

- Canadian energy prices rose steadily in relation to other prices in the economy. They were, however, considerably lower than world prices, which took large jumps relative to other prices in 1973 and 1979 and were constant relative to other prices in the intervening years.
- The aggregate energy intensity of the Canadian economy is among the highest in the OECD and the decline in this intensity in percentage terms was among the lowest in the years after 1971.
- The energy intensities of industries displayed considerable variation. The particular mix of outputs that was exported was more energy intensive than 72% of all individual industry outputs. Imports were also above the median energy intensity. In the years following 1973, imports to Canada shifted towards less energy intensive goods, while energy intensity of exports changed to a smaller extent.
- There is only weak evidence of energy intensive industries producing primary and semi-finished goods experiencing higher export growth rates through the 1970s and early 1980s.
- There is moderate evidence of energy intensive secondary industries displacing imports in the domestic market over this period, especially for those that face significant market penetration by foreign producers.

It should be noted that there are five strands to the analysis carried out by the author:

1. Measurement of the difference between domestic and international oil prices through the 1970s and 80s.
2. Comparison of the energy intensiveness of the Canadian economy to other economies.
3. Measurement of the variation in energy intensiveness of Canadian industrial products.
4. Calculation of the relative energy intensiveness of Canadian exports, indicating the potential trade advantage represented by inexpensive energy.
5. Comparison of the external trade related performance of industries with their energy intensiveness.

For more detailed information on this study, contact P. Cross (613-951-9162), or order the December issue of the *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$20/\$200), now available. See "How to Order Publications".

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## Data Availability Announcements

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### Steel Ingots

Week Ending December 10, 1988

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian steel ingot production for the week ending December 10, 1988 totalled 299 732 tonnes, a decrease of 8.1% from the preceding week's total of 326 168 tonnes but up 9.9% from the year-earlier level of 272 726 tonnes. The cumulative total in 1988 was 14 054 061 tonnes, an increase of 1.5% from 13 843 256 tonnes for the same period in 1987.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-9827), Industry Division.

### Construction Type Plywood

October 1988

Canadian firms produced 185 580 cubic metres (209,719,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) of construction type plywood during October 1988, a decrease of 9.2% from the 204 300 cubic metres (230,874,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) produced during October 1987.

January to October 1988 production totalled 1 807 872 cubic metres (2,043,024,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis), a decrease of 3.4% from the 1 872 355 cubic metres (2,115,894,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) produced during the same period in 1987.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).

The October 1988 issue of *Construction Type Plywood* (35-001, \$4.50/\$45) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Jock Dobie (604-666-2671), Pacific Region, Statistics Canada, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3C9.

### Electric Lamps

November 1988

Preliminary data for electric lamps (light bulbs and tubes) for November 1988 are now available.

*Electric Lamps (Light Bulbs and Tubes)* (43-009, \$4.50/\$45) will be released at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division.

### Stocks of Frozen Poultry Products

December 1, 1988

Preliminary cold storage of frozen poultry products at December 1, 1988 and revised figures for November 1, 1988 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.

The October issue of *Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry* (23-003, \$11/\$110) will be available the week of January 2nd. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release contact Ruth McMillan (613-951-2549), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division.

### Industrial Concentration in the Manufacturing, Mining and Logging Industries

1983-85

Measures of industrial concentration for the years 1983-85 are now available. Concentration ratios and Herfindahl indexes are provided for the four-digit level of the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

A printout is available at a cost of \$50. For more information on this release, contact D. Dubreuil (613-951-9497), Industry Division.



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## Publications Released

**Canadian Economic Observer**, December 1988.  
Catalogue number 11-010  
(Canada: \$20/\$200; Other Countries: \$22.50/\$225).

**Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production**, August 1988.  
Catalogue number 26-006  
(Canada: \$9/\$90; Other Countries: \$10/\$100).

**Consumer Price Index**, November 1988.  
Catalogue number 62-001  
(Canada: \$8.50/\$85; Other Countries: \$9.50/\$95).  
Available December 16th at 7:00 a.m.

**Directory of Federal Government Scientific and Technological Establishments**, 1987.  
Catalogue number 88-206E  
(Canada: \$25; Other Countries: \$26).

**Profiles - Census Tracts - Winnipeg: Part 2, 1986 Census.**  
Catalogue number 95-174  
(Canada: \$37; Other Countries: \$39).

## How to Order Publications

*Statistics Canada publications may be purchased by mail order from Publication Sales, Room 1710, Main Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6 or phone 613-951-7277.*

*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, Calgary and Vancouver, or from authorized bookstore agents or other booksellers.*

*A national toll-free telephone order service is now in operation at Statistics Canada. The toll-free line (1-800-267-6677) can be used by Canadian customers for the ordering of Statistics Canada products and services.*

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### Statistics Canada's Official Release Bulletin for Statistical Information

Catalogue 11-001E. Price: Canada \$100/year; other countries \$125/year

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