

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, February 22, 1988

Major Releases

Sales of Natural Gas, December 1987

- Sales of natural gas (including direct sales) in Canada during December 1987 increased by 4.2% from the level recorded the previous year.

Non-residential Construction Output Price Indexes, Fourth Quarter 1987

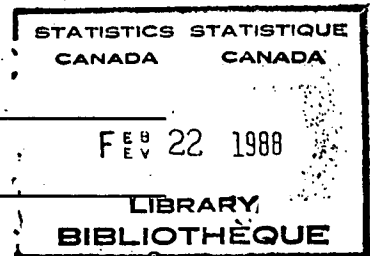
- Non-residential construction prices posted an increase in 1987 of 7.2%, the largest since 1982.

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Major Releases

Sales of Natural Gas

December 1987 - Preliminary Data

Sales of natural gas (including direct sales) in Canada during December 1987 totalled 5 548.7 million cubic metres, a 4.2% increase from the level recorded the previous year.

On the basis of rate structure information, sales in December 1987 were broken down as follows; with the percentage changes from December 1986 in brackets: residential sales, 1 581.0 million cubic metres (-0.3%); commercial sales, 1 328.1 million cubic metres (-2.5%) and industrial sales (including direct sales) 2 639.5 million cubic metres (+11.0%).

Year-to-date figures for the 12 months of 1987 indicate that sales of natural gas amounted to 48 228.0 million cubic metres, a 0.9% decrease from the level recorded during 1986.

On the basis of rate structure information, year-to-date sales were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from the corresponding period in 1986 in brackets: residential sales, 11 507.4 million cubic metres (-5.6%); commercial sales, 9 760.7 million cubic metres (-5.8%) and industrial sales (including direct sales) 26 959.8 million cubic metres (+3.3%).

The December 1987 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$11.50/\$115) will be available the third week of March. See "How to Order Publications".

For further detailed information concerning this release contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Sales of Natural Gas

December 1987
Preliminary Data

	Rate structure				
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct	Total
	(thousands of cubic metres)				
New Brunswick	6	45	-	-	51
Quebec	71 831	132 525	311 838	64 635	580 829
Ontario	737 432	567 445	853 494	172 788	2 331 159
Manitoba	73 103	71 898	43 359	-	188 360
Saskatchewan	119 747	96 708	84 930	-	301 385
Alberta	368 784	304 448	875 349	-	1 548 581
British Columbia	210 128	155 067	154 591	78 544	598 330
December 1987 - Canada	1 581 031	1 328 136	2 323 561	315 967	5 548 695
December 1986 - Canada	1 586 342	1 361 820	2 299 629	78 944	5 326 735
% change	-0.3	-2.5	11.0		4.2
Year to date 1987 - Canada	11 507 438	9 760 734	24 865 985	2 093 794	48 227 951
Year to date 1986 - Canada	12 192 127	10 362 184	25 498 540	605 224	48 658 075
% change	-5.6	-5.8	3.3		-0.9

Note: Revised figures will be available in the "Gas Utilities" publication (Catalogue # 55-002) as well as on CANSIM.
- Nil.

Non-residential Construction Output Price Indexes Fourth Quarter 1987

Price indexes of non-residential construction rose 1.0% at the Canada level in the fourth quarter of 1987 to a figure of 121.7. This increase marked the smallest quarterly change of the year and compares with a peak 2.7% rise in the first quarter of the year. Toronto prices showed the greatest fourth quarter increase at 1.3% and Edmonton the smallest at 0.6%. By type of building, the largest quarterly gains were for warehouses (2.0%) due in part to higher material costs (clay brick and copper products).

The annual increase (1987/1986) at the Canada level was 7.2%, the largest since 1982. Comparable city price increases ranged from 10.4% in Toronto to only 0.4% in Calgary.

Architectural trade prices were much higher in 1987 than in 1986, principally in Toronto due to shortages of both materials and labour. Electrical prices also advanced significantly due mainly to the recovery in the price of copper. For structural work, prices were higher in the eastern half of the country than in the western. Mechanical trade prices, on the other hand, showed a fairly uniform rate of change in all cities.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 414-415.

The fourth quarter issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$16.50/\$66) will be available in March. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information concerning this release contact the Prices Division (613-951-9608).

Output Price Indexes of Non-residential Construction Fourth Quarter 1987 (1981 = 100)

Seven Cities and Canada Indexes								
	Halifax	Montreal	Ottawa	Toronto	Calgary	Edmonton	Vancouver	Canada
Quarterly Indexes								
1986 Q4	120.4	127.9	126.1	134.2	93.4	92.9	108.7	114.5
1987 Q1	121.2	128.3	127.6	140.6	93.0	93.6	108.2	117.6
1987 Q2	122.0	131.9	129.0	141.8	93.4	94.3	109.2	119.0
1987 Q3	122.8	132.9	130.3 ^r	144.0	93.7	95.0 ^r	110.1	120.5
1987 Q4	123.6	133.7	131.3	145.9	94.4	95.6	111.4	121.7
Percentage Change								
Q2'87/Q1'87	0.7	2.8	1.1	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.2
Q3'87/Q2'87	0.7	0.8	1.0 ^r	1.6	0.3	0.7 ^r	0.8	1.3
Q4'87/Q3'87	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.3	0.7	0.6	1.2	1.0
Q4'87/Q4'86	2.7	4.5	4.1	8.7	1.1	2.9	2.5	6.3

^r Revised.

Data Availability Announcements

Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns December 1987

Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts totalled \$1,230.7 million for December 1987, an increase of 15.8% over the \$1,062.4 million reported for the same period last year.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 52.

The December 1987 issue of *Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns* (63-011, \$5/\$50), will be available the week of March 7. See "How to Order Publications".

For further detailed information concerning this release contact Services Division (613-951-2195).

Railway Transport in Canada 1986

Total operating revenue of railways operating in Canada amounted to \$7.57 billion in 1986 while operating expenses for the same period amounted to \$6.79 billion.

The number of persons engaged in Canadian rail operations averaged 84,848 with an average hourly wage of \$15.95.

The 1986 issue of *Railway Transport in Canada: General Statistics* (52-215, \$32) is scheduled for release the last week of March. See "How to Order Publications".

For further detailed information concerning this release contact the Rail Unit (613-951-2484), Transportation Division.

Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period Ending February 7, 1988

Highlights

- Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the week totalled 4.6 million tonnes, an increase of 0.4% from the previous year.
- Piggyback traffic increased 1.5% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded decreased by 2.4%.
- The tonnage of revenue freight loaded to date this year is 1.4% more than that loaded in the previous year.

	7-day Period ending February 7, 1988	Year-to-date
Carload Traffic		
Tonnes	4 628 963	24 189 103
% change from previous year	0.4	1.4
Cars	68,030	352,746
% change from previous year	-1.9	-1.2
Piggyback Traffic		
Tonnes	249 909	1 315 204
% change from previous year	1.5	6.4
Cars	8,640	44,212
% change from previous year	-2.4	-1.0

Note: Piggyback traffic includes trailers and containers on flat cars. The 1987 figures and the 1988 year-to-date figures have been revised. Piggyback traffic numbers are included in total carload traffic.

For further information regarding this release contact Angus McLean (613-951-2484), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division.

Mineral Wool

January 1988

Manufacturers shipped 8 595 409 square metres of mineral wool (all R factors) in batts in January 1988, down 13.6% from the 9 952 725 square metres shipped a year earlier but up 9.1% from the 7 876 211 square metres shipped the previous month.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 40 and 122 (series 32 and 33).

The January 1988 issue of *Mineral Wool including Fibrous Glass Insulation* (44-004, \$4.50/\$45) will be released the week of March 7. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information concerning this release contact Sharon McLinton (613-951-3527), Industry Division.

Construction Type Plywood

December 1987

Canadian firms produced 176 607 cubic metres, (199,579,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) of construction type plywood during December 1987, an increase of 18.9% from the 148 524 cubic metres (167,843,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) produced during December 1986.

January to December 1987 production totalled 2 229 000 cubic metres (2,518,929,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis), an increase of 18.8% over the 1 876 896 cubic metres (2,121,026,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) produced during the same period in 1986.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).

The December 1987 issue of *Construction Type Plywood* (35-001, \$4/\$40) is scheduled to be released the week of February 22. See "How to Order Publications".

For further detailed information concerning the contents of this release, contact Jock Dobie (604-666-2671), British Columbia & Yukon Regional Office, Statistics Canada, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3C9.

Stocks of Frozen Meats

February 1, 1988

Total frozen meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of February amounted to 26 947 tonnes as compared with 28 807 tonnes last month and 28 934 tonnes a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 87, 9517-9525.

The February issue of *Stocks of Frozen Meat Products* (32-012, \$11.50/\$115) is scheduled for release the week of March 7. See "How to Order Publications".

For further detailed information concerning this release contact P. L. Beerstecher (613-951-8714), Agriculture Division.



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Publications Released

Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, October 1987.
Catalogue number 26-006
(Canada: \$9/\$90; Other Countries: \$10/\$100).

Paper and Allied Products Industries, 1985. Catalogue number 36-250
(Canada: \$30; Other Countries: \$31.50).

Primary Iron and Steel, October 1987.
Catalogue number 41-001
(Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Primary Iron and Steel, November 1987.
Catalogue number 41-001
(Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Building Permits, October 1987.
Catalogue number 64-001
(Canada: \$20/\$200; Other Countries: \$21/\$210).

Local Government Finance, 1984.
Catalogue number 68-204
(Canada: \$25; Other Countries: \$26).

How to Order Publications

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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.

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