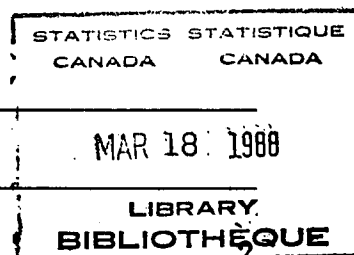


The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, March 18, 1988



Major Releases

Consumer Price Index, February 1988

- The CPI year-to-year increase was 4.0%, down slightly from the rate of 4.1% reported in January.

Retail Trade, January 1988

- Seasonally adjusted, retail sales totalled \$13.5 billion, unchanged from December 1987.

10

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Major Releases

Consumer Price Index

February 1988

National Highlights

The all-items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada increased by 0.4% between January and February to a level of 141.3 (1981=100). Five of the major component indexes registered increases ranging from 0.1% to 2.1%. The food index fell by 0.1% while the transportation index remained unchanged. Most of the upward pressure was accounted for by a rise of 2.1% in the clothing index, followed by increases of 1.2% in the recreation, reading and education index and 1.3% in the tobacco products and alcoholic beverages index.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the all-items index rose by 0.2%, matching the increase reported in January.

The year-over-year increase in the CPI, between February 1987 and February 1988, was 4.0%, down slightly from the 4.1% observed in the 12-month period ending in January. This latest increase was also the lowest since the 4.0% recorded in February last year. The compound annual rate of increase based on the seasonally adjusted index levels over the last three-month period (November to February) was 2.9%, down from the 3.8% reported in the three-month period ending in January.

Food

The food index fell by 0.1% in February, following an increase of 1.1% in January. The latest change resulted from the combined effects of a fall of 0.4% in the index for food purchased from stores and a rise of 0.4% in the index for food purchased from restaurants.

The fall in the index for food purchased from stores was largely due to declines in the indexes for fresh vegetables (-6.8%), beef (-3.0%), cured meat (-3.0%) and meat preparations and ready-cooked meat (-1.2%). A large part of the drop in the fresh vegetables index resulted from further declines in lettuce prices, following improvements in the weather conditions in the winter growing areas of the

United States. Beef prices fell in apparent response to increasing supplies and continued competition from poultry and pork. Some part of the downward influence on food prices was offset by higher prices for fresh fruit (mostly bananas and apples), poultry, bakery products, concentrated fruit juices and sugar.

Over the 12-month period, February 1987 to February 1988, the food index increased by 2.0%, continuing a downward trend from a peak of 6.3% in June 1987 through the 2.1% reported for the 12-month period ending in January. The latest change comprised increases of 1.3% in the index for food purchased from stores and 3.5% in the index for food purchased from restaurants.

All-items excluding Food

On a month-to-month basis, the all-items excluding food index rose by 0.5% in February, compared to the marginal 0.1% increase reported in January. Most of the latest rise was attributable to increases of 2.1% in the clothing index, 1.2% in the recreation, reading and education index and 1.3% in the tobacco products and alcoholic beverages index. By comparison, the contributions from rises in the housing and the health and personal care indexes were small, while the transportation index was unchanged.

The clothing index advanced by 2.1%, partly as a result of the introduction of the new seasonal lines and partly due to the end of "January sales". Women's wear prices rose by 2.8% on average, as significant increases were observed for women's coats, jackets, suits, dresses, sportswear, foundation garments and hosiery. Men's wear prices advanced by 1.8%, due mainly to higher prices for suits and dress shirts. Charges relating to laundering and clothes cleaning services also increased.

The recreation, reading and education index increased by 1.2%, primarily due to a 1.5% rise in the recreation index, for which the largest factor was a sharp increase in travel tour prices, principally to Florida destinations.

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The Consumer Price Index and Major Components (Not Seasonally Adjusted), Canada
(1981 = 100)

	Indexes			Percentage change Feb. 1988 from	
	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987
All-items	141.3	140.8	135.8	0.4	4.0
Food	133.9	134.1	131.3	-0.1	2.0
All-items excluding food	143.4	142.7	137.1	0.5	4.6
Housing	141.8	141.6	136.1	0.1	4.2
Clothing	128.6	125.9	122.0	2.1	5.4
Transportation	140.5	140.5	136.1	0.0	3.2
Health and personal care	142.9	142.0	136.3	0.6	4.8
Recreation, reading and education	141.6	139.9	134.4	1.2	5.4
Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages	192.0	189.6	178.2	1.3	7.7
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1981	70.8	71.0	73.6		
All-items Consumer Price Index converted to 1971 = 100	334.7				

Prices for recreational equipment and motion-picture viewing also increased. The reading index rose slightly as well, reflecting higher prices for selected newspapers and magazines.

The tobacco products and alcoholic beverages index climbed by 1.3%, mainly due to a 1.8% rise in the alcoholic beverages index. A large part of this increase was attributable to the January 1 increase in the federal excise tax, as its effects continued to be passed through to consumer prices. To a lesser extent, higher brewery prices and exchange rate effects also contributed to higher alcohol prices. Cigarette prices rose slightly, as previous "specials" came to an end.

The marginal 0.1% rise in the housing index reflected increased charges for rented accommodation and child care services, as well as higher prices for piped gas, electricity, horticultural goods, household textiles and selected appliances. The combined effects of these advances were offset to a large extent by lower owned accommodation costs (mainly lower mortgage interest charges) and a decline in furniture prices.

The health and personal care index climbed by 0.6%, reflecting higher prices for prescribed medicines and selected personal care supplies.

The transportation index remained unchanged, as a rise in air fares and new car prices was offset by a decline in gasoline prices. Air fares rose largely because of the reduced numbers of seats being sold at "seat sale" prices. The advance in new car prices was the net outcome of increases in the "base prices" of selected import models offset by larger manufacturers' rebates on some North American models. "Price wars" in Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria were largely responsible for the fall in gasoline prices.

Over the 12-month period, February 1987 to February 1988, the all-items excluding food index advanced by 4.6%, equalling the increase observed in the 12-month period ending in January.

Goods and Services

The goods index increased by 0.2% in February, compared to a rise of 0.6% reported in January. In contrast, the services index advanced by 0.6%, compared to the fall of 0.2% in the previous month. Over the 12-month period, February 1987 to February 1988, the goods

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index increased by 3.6% (3.9% in January), while the services index rose by 4.6% (4.5% in January).

City Highlights

Between January and February, changes in the all-items indexes for cities for which CPIs are published, ranged from a decline of 0.4% in Victoria to a rise of 0.7% in Charlottetown-Summerside, Halifax and Thunder Bay. Significantly greater than average increases in the clothing and the transportation indexes were largely responsible for the noticeable advances in the latter three cities. In addition, sharp increases for tobacco products and alcoholic beverages were observed in Charlottetown/Summerside and Halifax. The drop in Victoria's CPI was largely due to declines in the transportation and health and personal care indexes and a greater than average decline in food prices.

Between February 1987 and February 1988, increases in the all-items indexes for cities ranged between 2.5% in St. John's and 6.3% in Saskatoon.

Main Contributors to Monthly Changes in the All-items Index, by City

St. John's

Higher clothing prices, particularly for women's wear, combined with increased air fares and higher overall food prices (most notably for cured meats, dairy products and soft drinks) explained most of the 0.3% rise in the all-items index. Prices for personal care services advanced, as did the costs of packaged holiday trips and alcoholic beverages served in licensed premises. Partly offsetting these advances were declines in the costs of owned accommodation, long-distance telephone charges and furniture prices. Since February 1987, the all-items index has risen 2.5%.

Charlottetown/Summerside

The all-items index rose 0.7% with most of the upward impact originating from higher prices for men's and women's wear and increased costs

for alcoholic beverages served in licensed premises. Other notable increases were observed in charges relating to air travel, packaged holiday trips, electricity, household operation and rented accommodation. Food prices rose overall, most notably for poultry and bakery products. Between February 1987 and February 1988, the all-items index rose 3.9%.

Halifax

Advances in the prices of women's wear and alcoholic beverages (both from stores and in licensed premises) were among the main contributing factors in the 0.7% rise in the all-items index. Air fares were also up, as were the costs of packaged holiday trips. Other notable increases were observed in the prices for home entertainment equipment and in the costs of personal care supplies and services. Rented accommodation charges also advanced. From February 1987 to February 1988, the all-items index rose 3.2%.

Saint John

The all-items index rose 0.2% largely as a result of higher clothing prices, increased costs for personal care supplies and services, and higher prices for furniture and home entertainment equipment. Advances were also observed in prices of alcoholic beverages served in licensed premises, as well as in water rates and air fares. Rented and owned accommodation charges were up as well. Partly offsetting these advances were declines in gasoline prices and household operating costs. Food prices fell, mainly reflecting lower prices for beef, cured and prepared meats, chicken and cereal products. Since February 1987, the all-items index has risen 3.9%.

Quebec City

Among the main contributors to the 0.6% rise in the all-items index were higher clothing prices and advances in the costs of packaged holiday trips and alcoholic beverages (both in stores and in licensed premises). Household

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furnishings and equipment costs were also up, as were charges for air travel, movie admissions and personal care supplies. A decline in food prices, most notably for fresh vegetables and cured and prepared meats, exerted a moderating effect. From February 1987 to February 1988, the all-items index advanced 3.8%.

Montreal

Advances in the prices of clothing, packaged holiday trips and alcoholic beverages explained most of the 0.6% rise in the all-items index. Furniture prices were up, as were air fares, owned accommodation costs and admission charges to movies. Costs for personal care supplies and services also advanced. Lower overall food prices, especially for beef and fresh vegetables, partly offset these advances. Between February 1987 and February 1988, the all-items index rose 4.1%.

Ottawa

The 0.6% rise in the all-items index mainly reflected higher prices for clothing and alcoholic beverages combined with increased prices for packaged holiday trips and higher air fares. Also exerting a notable upward impact were higher charges for recreational and home entertainment equipment, for newspapers and for rented accommodation. Moderating these advances were lower overall food prices and decreased owned accommodation charges. Since February 1987, the all-items index has risen 3.7%.

Toronto

Advances in the costs of clothing, air travel and packaged holiday trips explained a large part of the 0.5% rise in the all-items index. Higher prices for alcoholic beverages, increased charges for rented accommodation and higher household operating costs also exerted a notable upward impact. Admission charges for movies and prices for home entertainment equipment were also up. Food prices rose marginally, as higher prices for poultry, dairy products and fresh fruit were only partially

offset by lower prices for pork and fresh vegetables. Between February 1987 and February 1988, the all-items index advanced 4.6%.

Thunder Bay

The 0.7% rise in the all-items index mainly reflected higher prices for clothing, increased household furnishings and equipment costs and higher prices for alcoholic beverages. Higher air fares were also observed, as were increased costs for packaged holiday trips. The food index advanced slightly, as higher prices for pork, dairy products, bakery products and fresh fruit were offset to a large extent by lower prices for chicken, cured meats, fresh vegetables and soft drinks. From February 1987 to February 1988, the all-items index advanced 3.7%.

Winnipeg

The all-items index rose 0.1%. Among the main upward contributors were higher clothing prices and increased costs for alcoholic beverages (both from stores and in licensed premises). Advances were also noted in the costs of household furnishings and equipment, air travel and packaged holiday trips. In addition, higher prices for prescribed and non-prescribed medicines and increased rented accommodation costs were observed. A considerable offsetting influence resulted from lower gasoline prices, decreased charges relating to owned accommodation and lower prices for personal care supplies. Food prices also declined overall, due mainly to lower prices for beef, chicken, cured meats, lettuce and soft drinks. Since February 1987, the all-items index has risen 3.7%.

Regina

Higher prices for clothing and for alcoholic beverages explained a large part of the 0.4% rise in the all-items index. Higher air fares and increased quotations for packaged holiday trips were also observed. As well, increases were noted in the costs of personal care supplies and household appliances. The food index was up

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overall, reflecting higher prices for pork, cereal and bakery products and fresh fruit (only partly offset by lower prices for beef and lettuce). Since February 1987, the all-items index has risen 5.5%.

Saskatoon

Among the main contributors to the 0.6% rise in the all-items index were advances in clothing prices, air fares and in the cost of alcoholic beverages. Also contributing to the upward movement were increased charges for personal care supplies and services as well as higher water rates and increased prices for household textiles and equipment. Food prices were also up, notably for pork and fresh fruit, offset somewhat by a decline in beef and lettuce prices. Prices of prescribed medicines and owned accommodation charges fell. Since February 1987, the all-items index has risen 6.3%.

Edmonton

Higher prices for clothing, for household furnishings and equipment, and for alcoholic beverages served in licensed premises were among the main contributing factors in the 0.2% rise in the all-items index. Other notable advances were observed in the costs of air travel, home entertainment equipment and packaged holiday trips. As well, prices for prescribed medicines and personal care supplies and services were up. Partly offsetting these advances were declines in gasoline prices and owned accommodation charges. The food index fell slightly, reflecting lower prices for chicken, cereal products, cured and prepared meats, and fresh vegetables. Since February 1987, the all-items index has risen 4.2%.

Calgary

The all-items index fell 0.3% mainly due to declines in gasoline prices, owned accommodation charges and household furnishings and equipment costs. Lower food prices also exerted a notable downward impact, reflecting price declines for chicken, cured and prepared meats,

cereal products, apples, lettuce and soft drinks. Partially offsetting these declines were higher clothing prices, increased air fares and higher prices for new houses. Prices of personal care supplies and services were also up, as were charges for recreational equipment, movie admissions and packaged holiday trips. Prices for cigarettes and for alcoholic beverages served in licensed premises also advanced. Since February 1987, the all-items index has risen 3.6%.

Vancouver

Declines in the prices of food and gasoline explained most of the 0.1% fall in the all-items index. The decline in the food index mainly reflected reduced prices for beef, pork, chicken, eggs, cereal products, oranges and lettuce. These declines were partly offset by higher prices for turkey, cured and prepared meats, dairy products, bakery products, sugar, soft drinks and restaurant meals. Other notable declines were observed in furniture prices, in personal care supply charges, and in owned accommodation charges. Price advances for clothing, air travel and alcoholic beverages had a considerable offsetting effect. Also exerting a notable upward impact were increased charges for rented accommodation, higher household operating expenses and increased prices for household textiles, recreational equipment and packaged holiday trips. Since February 1987, the all-items index has risen 3.0%.

Victoria

The all-items index fell 0.4% largely due to lower prices for gasoline and a decline in overall food prices, most notably for chicken and fresh vegetables. Owned accommodation charges also fell on average. Declines were also noted in the prices of fuel oil, furniture, non-prescribed medicines and personal care supplies. Partially offsetting these declines were higher prices for clothing, increased air fares and higher costs for alcoholic beverages. Prices of home entertainment equipment and

(continued on page 7)

packaged holiday trips also advanced. As well, increases were noted in rented accommodation charges and in the costs of household textiles and equipment. Since February 1987, the all-items index has risen 4.1%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1922-1940.

The February 1988 issue of *The Consumer Price Index* (62-001, \$8.50/\$85) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606), Prices Division.

Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.¹

	All-items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and personal care	Recreation, reading and education	Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages
St. John's								
Feb. 1988 index	137.2	122.5	137.7	133.8	136.6	140.9	140.0	184.7
% change from Jan. 1988	0.3	0.3	-0.3	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.2
% change from Feb. 1987	2.5	0.2	3.1	3.2	1.3	4.0	6.1	4.1
Charlottetown/Summerside								
Feb. 1988 index	134.6	125.6	131.8	122.9	132.2	145.2	147.0	191.1
% change from Jan. 1988	0.7	0.2	0.3	3.3	0.5	0.1	0.3	2.9
% change from Feb. 1987	3.9	2.4	4.2	4.2	2.2	4.9	5.8	6.5
Halifax								
Feb. 1988 index	139.5	124.6	139.8	125.5	138.6	149.4	149.3	198.0
% change from Jan. 1988	0.7	0.0	0.2	2.6	0.6	1.8	0.9	1.9
% change from Feb. 1987	3.2	1.6	2.2	5.7	1.6	4.3	5.2	8.7
Saint John								
Feb. 1988 index	139.7	132.0	142.5	125.1	134.6	139.4	146.8	193.2
% change from Jan. 1988	0.2	-0.7	0.1	3.1	-0.2	1.0	0.5	0.3
% change from Feb. 1987	3.9	2.5	2.7	5.8	5.3	4.6	6.2	6.3
Quebec City								
Feb. 1988 index	143.0	135.6	146.0	129.9	140.9	144.9	132.0	193.8
% change from Jan. 1988	0.6	-0.7	0.4	2.7	0.4	0.8	1.9	1.6
% change from Feb. 1987	3.8	2.3	3.6	5.4	3.5	5.7	4.3	5.8
Montreal								
Feb. 1988 index	143.8	136.4	146.2	128.2	145.0	143.3	137.3	195.1
% change from Jan. 1988	0.6	-0.5	0.3	2.2	0.4	1.0	1.6	1.9
% change from Feb. 1987	4.1	2.7	5.0	4.7	2.5	4.6	5.0	5.7
Ottawa								
Feb. 1988 index	141.8	127.9	145.9	130.0	144.5	144.5	141.1	185.8
% change from Jan. 1988	0.6	-0.2	0.0	2.4	0.7	0.6	2.2	1.8
% change from Feb. 1987	3.7	-1.0	3.7	5.9	4.6	6.4	6.5	7.0
Toronto								
Feb. 1988 index	145.5	138.1	148.6	132.1	144.8	145.8	142.6	187.7
% change from Jan. 1988	0.5	0.1	0.0	1.9	0.8	0.5	1.7	1.0
% change from Feb. 1987	4.6	2.4	5.7	6.2	3.0	4.4	5.5	6.3
Thunder Bay								
Feb. 1988 index	140.1	131.2	139.5	127.4	143.0	144.3	139.6	182.1
% change from Jan. 1988	0.7	0.2	0.4	3.2	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.1
% change from Feb. 1987	3.7	0.2	3.5	5.1	5.3	4.4	5.4	6.4
Winnipeg								
Feb. 1988 index	138.8	126.6	141.3	128.4	131.1	137.1	146.2	209.6
% change from Jan. 1988	0.1	-0.2	0.3	3.0	-2.1	0.1	0.4	2.3
% change from Feb. 1987	3.7	2.0	3.2	6.2	0.5	3.9	6.0	13.3

Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres (concluded)

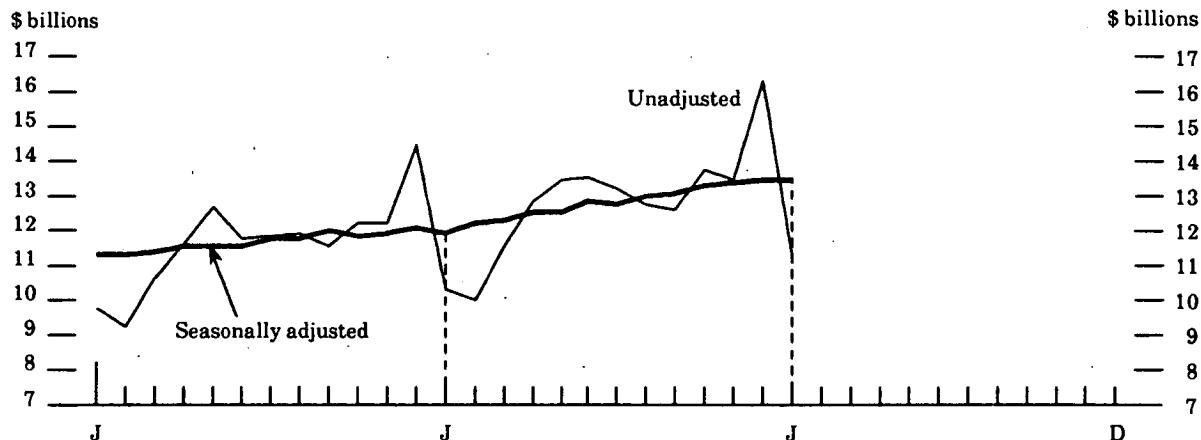
The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.¹

	All-items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and personal care	Recreation, reading and education	Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages
Regina								
Feb. 1988 index	139.0	124.9	141.4	126.0	132.7	165.9	144.4	188.2
% change from Jan. 1988	0.4	0.3	-0.1	2.8	0.5	-0.4	-0.1	1.4
% change from Feb. 1987	5.5	2.3	3.7	6.6	6.1	20.5	8.0	8.7
Saskatoon								
Feb. 1988 index	140.7	127.3	141.7	129.6	134.9	171.6	145.2	183.6
% change from Jan. 1988	0.6	0.6	0.1	2.8	0.7	0.1	0.3	1.3
% change from Feb. 1987	6.3	4.2	4.3	6.4	6.8	27.7	6.8	7.5
Edmonton								
Feb. 1988 index	135.7	134.8	126.5	127.2	135.4	143.3	141.4	212.5
% change from Jan. 1988	0.2	-0.1	0.1	2.0	-0.4	0.6	0.4	0.7
% change from Feb. 1987	4.2	3.6	2.4	5.9	1.2	4.6	6.8	18.8
Calgary								
Feb. 1988 index	134.6	133.2	125.8	123.5	134.4	147.9	141.0	206.0
% change from Jan. 1988	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	2.5	-3.3	0.7	0.6	0.3
% change from Feb. 1987	3.6	2.2	1.9	6.2	-0.5	4.8	6.6	17.8
Vancouver								
Feb. 1988 index	135.7	132.5	129.2	126.6	139.7	134.9	147.4	179.4
% change from Jan. 1988	-0.1	-0.4	0.1	2.0	-1.8	-0.1	0.1	0.9
% change from Feb. 1987	3.0	1.4	3.1	3.2	3.6	2.7	3.6	6.2
Victoria²								
Feb. 1988 index	108.8	109.8	103.4	109.1	107.4	107.7	117.0	130.3
% change from Jan. 1988	-0.4	-0.8	-0.1	1.7	-2.5	-1.1	0.0	0.6
% change from Feb. 1987	4.1	1.1	3.1	3.0	9.7	2.0	5.9	5.8

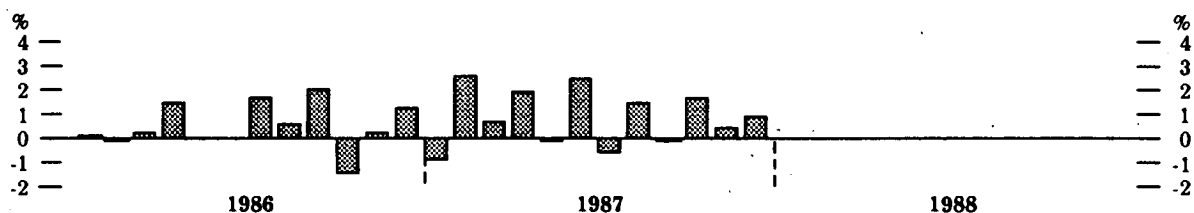
¹ For inter-city indexes of retail price differentials, refer to Table 22 of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes (62-010, \$16.50/\$66.00).

² December 1984 = 100.

Monthly Retail Trade, Unadjusted and Seasonally Adjusted, Canada, 1986-1988



Month-to-month Changes (seasonally adjusted)



Retail Trade

January 1988

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted Sales

- Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, preliminary estimates indicate that retail sales totalled \$13.5 billion in January 1988, virtually unchanged from December 1987.
- The overall lack of growth in January 1988 is in contrast to a generally rising trend observed during 1987, when retail trade advanced on average by 1.0% on a monthly basis.

- In January 1988, the most significant sales increases in dollar terms were recorded by automotive parts and accessories stores (+6.1%); grocery, confectionery and sundries stores (+1.2%); and pharmacies, patent medicine and cosmetics stores (+1.5%). Offsetting these increases were declines by department stores (-5.4%), combination stores (-1.6%) and general merchandise stores (-7.8%).

Unadjusted Sales

- Retail trade totalled \$11.3 billion in January 1988, up 9.6% over the same month last year.

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- The two largest major groups within retail trade recorded sales increases over January 1987: dealers of new and used motor vehicles increased a significant 20.6% while total food stores rose a more moderate 4.7%. Department store sales were down 5.4% on a year-over-year basis, while service station sales rose 11.2%, the tenth consecutive monthly increase.
- All provinces and territories registered higher retail sales in January 1988 compared to the corresponding month in 1987. Sales were also higher in the four metropolitan areas covered by the survey.

(see table on page 12)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2300-2304, 2306-2313, 2315-2317, 2320 and 2321.

The January 1988 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, \$16/\$160) will be available the third week of April. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Roger Laplante (613-951-3549), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

Retail Trade, Canada, by Kind of Business

Kind of Business	Unadjusted Sales All Stores				Seasonally Adjusted Sales All Stores				
	Jan. 1987	Dec. 1987 ^r	Jan. 1988 ^p	Jan. 1988/ Jan. 1987	Oct. 1987 ^r	Nov. 1987 ^r	Dec. 1987 ^r	Jan. 1988 ^p	Jan. 1988/ Dec. 1987
	(millions of \$)			%	(millions of \$)				%
Combination stores (groceries and meat)	2,229.9	2,528.8	2,282.6	2.3	2,289.0	2,304.2	2,325.7	2,288.5	-1.6
Grocery, confectionery and sundries stores	600.3	733.5	667.7	11.2	702.2	729.9	718.4	727.4	1.2
All other food stores	207.3	298.3	229.2	10.5	241.2	245.3	250.1	257.9	3.1
Department stores	771.6	2,031.2	729.6	-5.4	1,075.5	1,090.1	1,097.2	1,038.2	-5.4
General merchandise stores	196.8	366.9	203.5	3.4	264.7	263.1	279.9	257.9	-7.8
General stores	157.1	225.6	170.9	8.7	199.1	199.2	192.6	200.2	3.9
Variety stores	61.4	159.3	61.5	0.1	90.2	90.4	86.9	92.0	5.8
Motor vehicle dealers	1,834.2	2,406.9	2,215.8	20.8	2,849.5	2,864.2	2,938.0	2,943.7	0.2
Used car dealers	60.4	72.7	69.5	15.0	96.0	94.3	96.8	95.5	-1.3
Service stations	837.4	1,011.7	931.7	11.2	1,027.6	1,029.3	1,005.5	1,004.9	-0.1
Garages	114.2	148.9	141.8	24.1	153.5	153.8	157.4	159.5	1.4
Automotive parts and accessories stores	187.0	384.0	220.5	17.9	304.0	297.4	295.9	313.8	6.1
Men's clothing stores	99.0	255.1	108.6	9.7	137.8	132.4	136.6	137.5	0.7
Women's clothing stores	221.4	422.6	228.8	3.3	276.0	281.5	282.1	280.1	-0.7
Family clothing stores	136.8	324.0	146.0	6.7	193.1	191.7	192.1	194.1	1.0
Specialty shoe stores	20.2	27.0	21.6	6.7	23.3	23.1	23.9	22.8	-4.6
Family shoe stores	76.0	137.9	79.8	5.0	105.4	100.7	101.7	105.6	3.9
Hardware stores	91.5	175.0	100.2	9.5	146.2	145.6	143.3	141.1	-1.5
Household furniture stores	124.2	196.6	144.7	16.5	169.3	169.9	169.1	167.7	-0.8
Household appliance stores	42.6	69.7	52.5	23.2	56.4	56.8	55.9	58.0	3.7
Furniture, TV, radio and appliance stores	123.5	164.0	121.8	-1.3	136.3	138.6	136.0	135.3	-0.5
Pharmacies, patent medi- cine and cosmetics stores	524.3	753.9	574.3	9.5	584.4	584.0	587.7	596.3	1.5
Book and stationery stores	64.3	166.8	79.9	24.2	84.0	84.6	86.0	88.6	3.0
Florists	34.8	75.0	37.1	6.7	52.0	50.9	51.0	51.0	-0.1
Jewellery stores	61.8	266.1	66.3	7.3	96.0	93.1	94.8	99.8	5.2
Sporting goods and accessories stores	142.6	277.6	163.8	14.8	202.6	216.9	217.2	219.3	1.0
Personal accessories stores	148.5	362.8	172.0	15.8	201.9	206.3	209.3	212.1	1.3
All other stores	1,146.9	2,228.9	1,291.4	12.5	1,544.3	1,535.3	1,563.9	1,599.6	2.3
All stores - Total	10,315.9	16,270.8	11,313.2	9.6	13,301.6	13,372.4	13,495.0	13,488.3	--

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Data Availability Announcements

Property and Casualty Insurers

Fourth Quarter 1987

Property and casualty insurers posted an estimated underwriting loss of \$390 million in the fourth quarter of 1987 compared to a loss of \$165 million for the third quarter. For the fourth quarter of 1986, the estimated underwriting loss reported was \$202 million.

Estimated net investment income exceeded \$467 million for the fourth quarter of 1987, an increase of 8% over the third quarter of 1987 and 15% above the fourth quarter 1986 amount.

Annual 1987

Estimated annual net income of property and casualty insurers during 1987 exceeded \$1 billion for the second consecutive year.

For 1987, the estimated underwriting loss stood at \$535 million compared to a loss of \$555 million for 1986. Estimated net investment income earned during 1987 was \$1.7 billion, an increase of 13% over 1986.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3797 and 3857-3859.

For more detailed information on this release, contact G. Somers (613-951-9851), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. Complete details on the other financial institutions will be available before March 28.

Highway Construction Price Indexes

1986

The Highway Construction Price Index for Canada (1981=100)¹ fell to a level of 114.7, a drop of 2.7% from the previous fiscal year's level of 117.9. Prices for new highway construction declined in all provinces except British Columbia, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

Contractors' bid prices, which account for about 80% of total expenditures, rose 3.5% during the year, mainly because of increases of 7.1% for granular base course and 1.5% for grading, although prices for paving fell 10.5%.

While price changes across the country for grading were mixed, those for granular base courses moved upward for all provinces except Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. Quebec was the chief contributor to this movement with an increase of 27.9%. Prices for paving fell sharply in all provinces except British Columbia. These decreases ranged from 19.1% for Saskatchewan to 2.8% for New Brunswick.

Prices for materials supplied by the provincial departments of highways plunged 21.6% at the Canada level, principally as a result of nationwide decreases in the main component - asphalt. Prices fell in every province, with the most dramatic decreases occurring in Quebec (27.7%), Ontario (23.6%), Manitoba (24.2%) and Alberta (22.2%).

¹The Highway Construction Price Indexes are now calculated on a 1981 time base with fixed component weights at the provincial level, but with three-year moving average weights for the Canada total.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 115.

The fourth quarter 1987 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$16.50/\$66) will be available towards the end of March. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-951-9607), Prices Division.

Railway Carloadings

Eight-day Period Ending February 29, 1988

Highlights

- Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the period totalled 5.7 million tonnes, an increase of 14.4% from the previous year.
- Piggyback traffic increased 20.6% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded increased 12.1%.
- The tonnage of revenue freight loaded to date this year is 2.2% more than that loaded in the previous year.

	Eight-day Period Ending February 29, 1988	Year to date
Carload Traffic		
Tonnes	5 747 587	39 416 180
% change from previous year	14.4	2.2
Cars	83,700	575,148
% change from previous year	11.7	-0.3
Piggyback Traffic		
Tonnes	327 612	2 157 700
% change from previous year	20.6	7.2
Cars	10,770	72,381
% change from previous year	12.1	--

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

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 more detailed information on this release, contact Angus McLean (613-951-2484), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division.

Steel Ingots

January 1988

Steel ingot production for January 1988 totalled 1 272 392 tonnes, an increase of 3.5% from 1 229 138 tonnes the previous year.

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

The January 1988 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$4.50/\$45) is scheduled to be released the last week of March. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gerry Barrett (613-951-3515), Industry Division.

Rolled Steel

January 1988

Rolled steel shipments for January 1988 totalled 1 100 997 tonnes, an increase of 5.8% from the preceding month's total of 1 041 083 tonnes and up 5.5% from the year-earlier level of 1 043 458^r (revised figure) tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 58 and 122 (series 22-25).

The January 1988 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$4.50/\$45) is scheduled to be released the last week of March. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gerry Barrett (613-951-3515), Industry Division.

Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers

January 1988 (Revision)

Data users should note the following text is a revised version of the one that appeared in the February 26th *Daily*.

Canadian domestic shipments totalled 193 955 thousand square metres of corrugated boxes and wrappers in January 1988, an increase of 18.7% from the 163 440 thousand square metres shipped a year earlier.

The January 1988 issue of *Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers* (36-004, \$4.50/\$45) is to be released the week of March 21. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Sandra Bohatyretz (613-951-3531), Industry Division.

Publications Released

Fruit and Vegetable Preservation,

Vol. 16, No. 16, March 1988.

Catalogue number 32-023

(Canada: \$7/\$115; Other Countries: \$8/\$125).

Non-metallic Mineral Products

Industries, 1986 Census of Manufactures.

Catalogue number 44-250B 3521

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

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.

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.

Major Release Dates: Week of March 21 - 25

(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
March		
22	Department Store Sales and Stocks	January 1988
22	Sales of Refined Petroleum Products	January 1988
22-April 8	Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries	January 1988
23	Wholesale Trade	January 1988
24	Crude Oil and Natural Gas	December 1987
25	Canada's Foreign Trade in Automotive Products	Fourth Quarter 1987

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