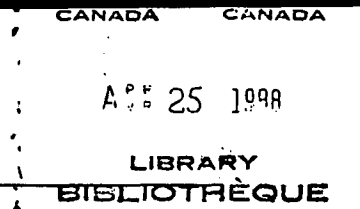


The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, April 25, 1988



Major Releases

Aggregate Productivity Measures and Unit Labour Cost, 1987 2

- Five years of sustained growth in productivity and moderate increases in labour compensation have resulted in modest increases in unit labour cost – only 1.9% a year in the business sector over the period 1982 to 1987.

Department Store Sales and Stocks, February 1988 4

- Seasonally adjusted, department store sales increased by a modest 0.2% from January 1988.

Crude Oil and Natural Gas, January 1988 6

- Marketable production of natural gas posted the seventh consecutive monthly gain, rising 16.9% over January 1987.

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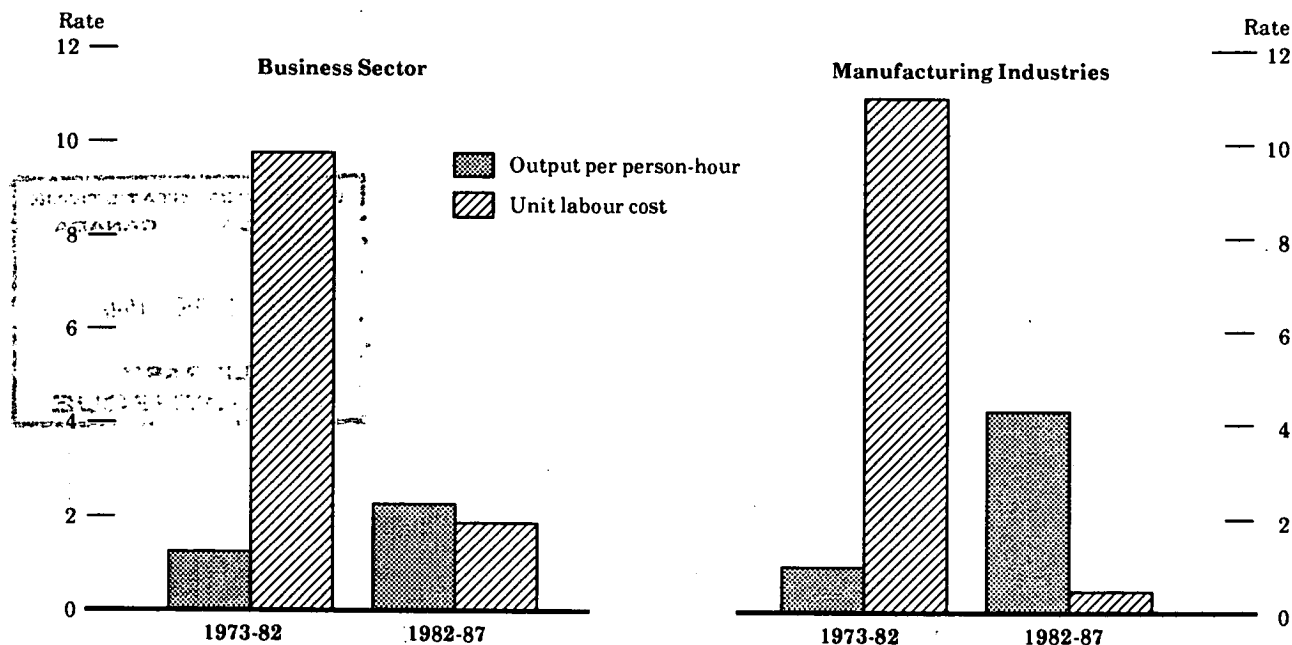
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Major Releases

Average Annual Rate of Growth in Output per Person-hour and Unit Labour Cost



Aggregate Productivity Measures and Unit Labour Cost

1987

Preliminary estimates of output per person-hour for the business sector showed an increase of 1.4% in 1987. During the course of the last three years, the annual rate of growth of productivity was stable at this level, in an economic environment where output also grew steadily.

This favorable productivity trend was particularly pronounced in manufacturing industries where output per person-hour increased by 1.7% in 1987. The adjustments that followed the drop of output in 1982 translated into large increases in productivity at first but later returned to more normal levels. As an indication of the labour rationalization process going on in these industries, it should be noted that the level of employment in 1987 was still lower than it was in 1981. Overall, the average annual rate of growth of productivity in manufacturing industries since 1982 was 4.3%.

Over the last five years, increases in labour compensation per person-hour moderated considerably and finally stabilized around 4% per year in the business sector as a whole and around 4.5% in the manufacturing industries. Given this performance for productivity and labour compensation, increases in unit labour cost have significantly declined. From 1982 to 1987, unit labour cost increased at an average annual rate of 1.9% in the business sector, which is low when compared to the preceding decade. For manufacturing industries - which face international competition - increases in unit labour cost were even lower over the same period, averaging 0.5% per year.

(see table on page 3)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 7916-7938.

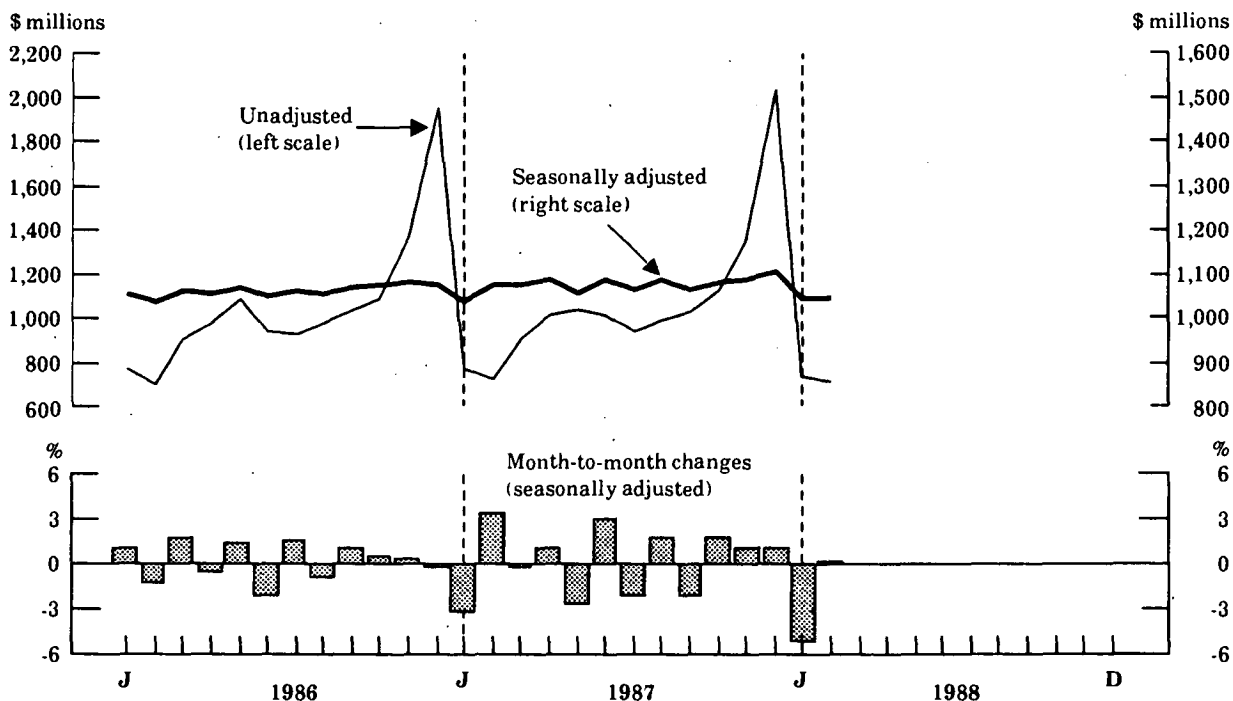
For more detailed information on this release, contact Karnail S. Gill (613-951-3647) or Monique Larose (613-951-3658), Input-Output Division.

Measures of Labour Productivity and Unit Labour Cost, Canada

1981-1987
(1981=100)

	Output	Person hours	Compensation per person- hour	Output per person-hour	Unit labour cost
Business Sector					
	Indexes				
1981	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1982	95.2	95.1	110.3	100.1	110.2
1983	98.6	94.7	115.2	104.1	110.7
1984	105.6	98.0	120.6	107.7	112.0
1985	111.5	102.4	125.6	108.9	115.4
1986	115.5	104.2	130.7	110.8	118.0
1987	120.7	107.5	135.9	112.3	121.0
	Annual rate of change (%)				
1961-1987	4.5	1.8	8.1	2.7	5.3
1961-1973	5.9	1.9	7.6	3.9	3.5
1973-1982	2.6	1.3	11.2	1.3	9.8
1982-1987	4.9	2.5	4.3	2.3	1.9
1981-1982	-4.8	-4.9	10.3	0.1	10.2
1982-1983	3.6	-0.3	4.5	4.0	0.5
1983-1984	7.0	3.5	4.7	3.4	1.2
1984-1985	5.6	4.4	4.2	1.1	3.0
1985-1986	3.6	1.8	4.1	1.7	2.3
1986-1987	4.5	3.1	4.0	1.4	2.6
Manufacturing Industries					
	Indexes				
1981	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1982	87.1	91.3	110.6	95.5	115.8
1983	92.7	90.6	117.3	102.4	114.5
1984	106.9	94.2	122.8	113.5	108.2
1985	112.8	97.0	128.9	116.3	110.8
1986	115.4	99.4	133.9	116.0	115.4
1987	120.9	102.4	139.9	118.0	118.6
	Annual rate of change (%)				
1961-1987	4.4	1.1	8.1	3.2	4.7
1961-1973	6.7	2.1	6.5	4.5	1.9
1973-1982	0.0	-0.9	12.0	1.0	11.0
1982-1987	6.8	2.3	4.8	4.3	0.5
1981-1982	-12.9	-8.8	10.6	-4.5	15.8
1982-1983	6.4	-0.8	6.1	7.3	-1.1
1983-1984	15.3	4.1	4.7	10.8	-5.5
1984-1985	5.5	2.9	5.0	2.5	2.4
1985-1986	2.3	2.5	3.9	-0.2	4.1
1986-1987	4.8	3.0	4.5	1.7	2.7

Department Store Sales, by Month, Unadjusted and Seasonally Adjusted, Canada, 1986-1988



Department Store Sales and Stocks February 1988

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted Data

- Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, department store sales in February 1988 totalled \$1,045 million, a modest increase of 0.2% over the previous month's revised total of \$1,043 million.
- The lack of growth in the first two months of 1988 is in contrast to a generally upward trend in sales observed in the last three months of 1987, when sales advanced on average by 1.3% on a monthly basis.

- Department store stocks (at selling value) totalled \$4,517 million at the end of February 1988, up 5.4% over the January 1988 revised value of \$4,286 million. This substantial increase followed four consecutive monthly decreases.

- The ratio of inventories to sales stood at 4.32:1 in February, up over the average ratio of 4.04:1 observed in the three previous months.

Unadjusted Data

- Removing the affect of the sale of Woodward Stores Ltd.'s food division, department store sales increased 4.9% over February 1987, to a level of \$715 million. (Not adjusted for structural changes, department store sales declined 0.9%.)

(continued on page 5)

- Cumulative sales for the period January to February 1988 totalled \$1,445 million, up 2.1% (after adjustment) over the corresponding period in 1987.
- Corrected for structural changes, all provinces posted gains in February 1988 over the corresponding month in 1987, with the exception of Manitoba which recorded a decrease of 6.1%. Increases ranged from 10.5% in British Columbia to 0.9% in Saskatchewan.
- Department store stocks at month-end totalled \$4,208 million, an increase of 4.8% over the level reached in February 1987.

Note to Users:

Users should note that the year-over-year movements for some provinces and census metropolitan areas have been affected by major structural changes during 1987, including the sale of Woodward Stores Ltd.'s food department to Canada Safeway Ltd.

Department store sales and stocks have an MCD (months of cyclical dominance) of three, which represents the number of months over which a change in the seasonally adjusted series must move in a given direction before one can be reasonably certain that the trend-cycle of that series also has moved in the given direction.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 112.

The February 1988 issue of *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (63-002, \$13/\$130) will be available the first week of August. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact André Jacques (613-951-3552) or Dave Roeske (613-951-3553), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

Crude Oil and Natural Gas

January 1988

Highlights

- Marketable production of natural gas in January 1988, at 9.2 billion cubic metres, maintained its strong pattern of growth, posting a gain of 16.9% over January 1987. Following two consecutive declines, sales of natural gas in Canada rose 9.8% over the same period last year. Exports of natural gas continued to show a marked increase, rising 31.4%.
- Preliminary figures indicate that production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons in January 1988 amounted to 8.1 million cubic metres, an increase of 3.9% over January 1987.

- Crude oil exports for January 1988 rose 17.8% over the 1987 level. Imports of crude oil continued to reflect increased demand by eastern refineries, posting a gain of 3.0%. Gains were also recorded for refinery receipts (6.1%).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 127 and 128.

The January 1988 issue of *Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, \$9/\$90) is scheduled to be released the third week of May. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gérard O'Connor (613-951-3562), Industry Division.

Crude Oil and Natural Gas

	January 1988	January 1987	% Change from January 1987
(thousands of cubic metres)			
Crude oil and equivalent			
Production	8 110.6	7 805.2	3.9
Exports	3 350.8	2 843.7	17.8
Imports	2 238.2	2 172.3	3.0
Refinery receipts	7 614.4	7 179.5	6.1
(millions of cubic metres)			
Natural gas			
Marketable production	9 194.0	7 865.7	16.9
Exports	3 764.6	2 864.7	31.4
Canadian sales	6 210.7	5 655.3	9.8

Data Availability Announcements

Canada's International Investment Position

1978-1987

Selected series on Canada's international investment position with foreign countries is now available on CANSIM: matrix 2356 for the years 1978 to 1987.

For more detailed information, contact C. Richards (613-951-9054), International and Financial Economics Division.

Consolidated Government Finance 1984

Revised data for the consolidated revenues and expenditures of provincial and local government and of provincial/local and federal government for 1984 are now available. These actual data replace the estimates previously available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3146-3160.

For more detailed information on this release, contact G. Huneault (613-951-1812), Public Institutions Division.

Publications Released

Farm Product Price Index, February 1988.

Catalogue number 62-003

(Canada: \$6.50/\$65; Other Countries:
\$7.50/\$75).

Employment, Earnings and Hours, January

1988. Catalogue number 72-002

(Canada: \$38.50/\$385; Other Countries:
\$40.50/\$405).

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