

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, April 7, 1988

CANADA

APR 7 1988

LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Major Releases

Composite Leading Indicator, January 1988 2

- The composite index rose by 0.4% in January, little changed from the increases recorded for the previous two months.

Pension Plans in Canada, 1986 4

- Membership in employer-sponsored pension plans increased 2.3% from 1984 to 4,668,381.

Construction Building Material Price Index: Residential, February 1988 6

- Prices for building materials used in residential construction decreased 0.1% from January but rose 5.8% on a year-over-year basis.

Construction Building Material Price Index: Non-residential, February 1988 7

- The index increased 0.4% from the previous month and 6.2% from February 1987.

Data Availability Announcements

Regional Distribution of Federal Extramural Expenditures on Science and Technology, 1986-87 8

Steel Ingots, Week Ending April 2, 1988 8

Cement, February 1988 8

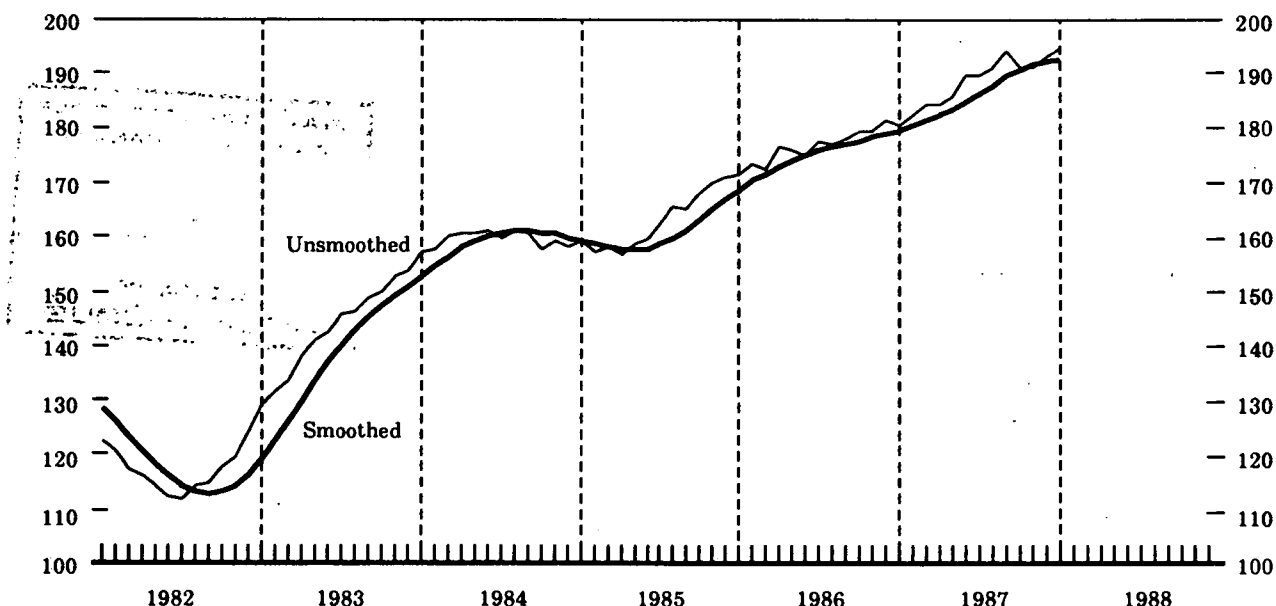
Publications Released 9



Major Releases

The Canadian Composite Leading Indicator (1971 = 100)

January 1982 to January 1988



Composite Leading Indicator January 1988

The rate of advance of the indicator (1971=100) remained little changed for the third straight month, the index rising 0.4% to 192.8 in January. Following a 1.6% drop in October, when the stock market fell, the non-smoothed version of the index has risen steadily. These increases were largely attributable to the manufacturing indicators, which all showed strong growth, supplemented by higher retail sales.

The household demand indicators remained mixed in January. Sales of durable goods continued to rise, while the residential construction index posted its sixth straight slight decrease. Housing starts in urban centres went from 185,000 units at annual rates in December to 169,000 units in January. (The

average annual level of starts in urban centres during the current economic expansion is 154,000.)

New orders for durable goods rose 1.2% in January, the sixth consecutive strong increase. The January increase was mainly attributable to the transportation equipment industry: Canadian and American automotive production recovered, after car sales posted steady growth in 1987. There were steady increases in the length of the average workweek.

After slowing throughout the fall, the United States leading indicator posted a first decrease in January (-0.3%), mainly as a result of a larger stock market decrease than was recorded in Canada. (In February, however, renewed strength in most of the components resulted in a 0.9% rise in the non-smoothed version of the index.)

(continued on page 3)

Available on CANSIM: matrix 161.

For further information on data published in this issue and the next release dates, or about ordering, contact F. Roy-Mayrand (613-951-3627). For more information on the

economy, order the *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$20/\$200). See "How to Order Publications". The April issue also includes a feature article on a new database to study job creation by small, medium and large firms.

Canadian Leading Indicators

	Percentage Change			Level
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.
Composite Leading Indicator (1971 = 100)				
Smoothed	0.4	0.3	0.4	192.8
Unsmoothed	0.0	1.2	0.6	194.4
Retail Trade				
Furniture and appliance sales	0.6	0.2	0.0	145,971 ⁴
New motor vehicle sales	1.1	0.2	0.3	802,051 ⁴
Residential construction index¹	-2.6	-3.0	-2.7	119.2
Manufacturing				
New orders - durable	1.5	1.1	1.2	3,747 ⁵
Shipment to inventory ratio - (finished goods) ²	0.02	0.02	0.02	1.83
Average workweek (hours)	0.0	0.1	0.0	38.8
Percentage change in price per unit labour cost ²	0.08	0.11	0.14	-0.2
United States				
composite leading index (1967 = 100)	0.2	0.0	-0.3	192.0
TSE 300 stock price index (excluding oil and gas)	-4.0	-4.0	-4.1	3,259
Money supply (M1) (\$1971) ³	0.0	-0.3	-0.3	11,170 ⁵

¹ Composite index of housing starts (units), building permits (constant dollars) and mortgage loan approvals (numbers).

² Difference from previous month.

³ Deflated by the consumer price index for all items.

⁴ Thousands of 1971 dollars.

⁵ Millions of 1971 dollars.

Pension Plans in Canada 1986

At the beginning of 1986, a total of 4,668,381 Canadian workers participated in employer-sponsored pension plans, an increase of 2.3% from 1984 and up nearly 20% from 1976. Nearly three-quarters of the additional 765,883 pension plan members since 1976 were female.

During the period 1976-1986, the number of female members grew by close to 53% while the number of male participants increased 7.3%. As a result of this growth, females accounted for 35% of all plan members in 1986, up substantially from the 27% recorded in 1976.

The 4,668,381 participants in pension plans represented 46% of all employed paid workers¹. The participation rate for males was 52% and 37% for females. These rates are relatively unchanged from those of 1984.

The number of pension plans to which these members belonged increased to 21,094 in 1986, up 3,383 or 19% from the beginning of 1984. The largest increase was seen in private sector plans with fewer than five members, most of which were established for executives or significant shareholders. In 1980, 22% of all plans had fewer than five members, compared to 41% in 1986. These small plans still cover less than 1% of the total plan membership.

The data also reveal an increase in the number of non-contributory plans (i.e. plans to which employees are not required to contribute) and defined contribution plans². This increase can be directly related to the growth in

the number of plans with fewer than five members, since most of these smaller plans do not require a contribution by the employee but specify a fixed contribution rate for the employer. Specifically:

- In 1980, one quarter of all plans were non-contributory. By 1986, this proportion had nearly doubled, to 47%. The proportion of the members covered by non-contributory plans, however, remained at just over 30%, unchanged since 1980.
- From 1982 to 1986, the number of defined contribution plans more than doubled, thereby increasing from 40% to 60% of all employer-sponsored pension plans. But despite the growth in this type of plan, they still covered just 7.0% of the total members in 1986, up only slightly from 5.3% in 1982.

Public sector plans, which numbered 937 in 1986, accounted for only 4.4% of all employer-sponsored pension plans but covered almost 45% of the 4.7 million plan participants.

At the beginning of 1986, a total of 1,016 plans covering 1,577,216 members (33.8% of the total membership) provided for some form of automatic escalation of pension payments. Almost 89% of the members of these plans were in the public sector although only 11% of the 1,016 plans were public sector plans. Not reflected in these data are situations where employers, generally from the private sector, have made periodic ad-hoc increases to the amount of the pension payment.

(see table on page 5)

Detailed information of the provisions of these 21,094 pension plans will be published at a later date in the 1986 issue of *Pension Plans in Canada* (74-401).

Advance information is presently available and can be obtained by contacting Jessica Dunn (613-951-4034) or Diane Galarneau (613-951-4038), Pensions Section, Labour Division.

¹ Excluded from employed paid workers are unpaid family workers, the unemployed and the self-employed who, by definition, are not eligible for membership in employer-sponsored pension plans.

² In a defined contribution plan, the employer - as well as the employee - contribution rate is fixed. On the other hand, in a defined benefit plan, the employer must supplement the employee's required contribution with whatever amount is needed to provide the promised benefit.

Selected Characteristics of Employer-Sponsored Pension Plans
1980, 1982, 1984 and 1986

Plans	1980		1982		1984		1986	
	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total
Total	14,586	100.0	15,232	100.0	17,711	100.0	21,094	100.0
Type of plan:								
Defined contribution	6,170	42.3	6,108	40.1	9,030	51.0	12,637	59.9
Defined benefit	8,035	55.1	8,775	57.6	8,386	47.3	8,215	38.9
Other	381	2.6	349	2.3	295	1.7	242	1.1
Contributory	10,976	75.3	10,489	68.9	10,322	58.3	11,184	53.0
Non-contributory	3,610	24.7	4,743	31.1	7,389	41.7	9,910	47.0
Public sector	690	4.7	729	4.8	803	4.5	937	4.4
Private sector	13,896	95.3	14,503	95.2	16,908	95.5	20,157	95.6
Members								
	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total
Total	4,475,429	100.0	4,657,935	100.0	4,564,623	100.0	4,668,381	100.0
Male	3,097,696	69.2	3,181,288	68.3	3,039,449	66.6	3,047,160	65.3
Female	1,377,733	30.8	1,476,647	31.7	1,525,174	33.4	1,621,221	34.7
Type of plan:								
Defined contribution	231,275	5.2	245,733	5.3	268,623	5.9	325,320	7.0
Defined benefit	4,194,283	93.7	4,363,653	93.7	4,243,248	93.0	4,295,691	92.0
Other	49,871	1.1	48,549	1.0	52,752	1.2	47,370	1.0
Contributory	3,129,728	69.9	3,183,281	68.3	3,168,632	69.4	3,236,819	69.3
Non-contributory	1,345,701	30.1	1,474,654	31.7	1,395,991	30.6	1,431,562	30.7
Public sector	1,969,931	44.0	1,975,533	42.4	2,028,929	44.4	2,086,206	44.7
Private sector	2,505,498	56.0	2,682,402	57.6	2,535,694	55.6	2,582,175	55.3

Construction Building Material Price Index: Residential

February 1988

The price index for residential construction building materials (1981=100) stood at 139.5 in February, down 0.1% from the revised figure for the previous month, but up 5.8% from a year ago.

Between January and February 1988, a sizeable fall in the price for copper pipe and fittings, along with a decrease in the price for lumber outweighed several small increases.

Between February 1987 and February 1988, prices for electrical materials rose 8.4%, due principally to increases in building wires and cables. There were increases in prices for mechanical materials of 8.1%, due primarily to

increases in copper pipe and fittings. Structural materials increased 7.5%, mainly as a result of increases in lumber and concrete bricks and blocks. Architectural materials were up 4.7%, mainly because of increases in metal roofing and siding and gypsum wall-board.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 423 (level 1).

The first quarter 1988 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$16.50/\$66) will be available in June. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Construction Building Material Price Indexes: Residential

February 1988
(1981=100)

	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	% Change	
				Feb. 1988/ Jan. 1988	Feb. 1988/ Feb. 1987
Total materials	139.5	139.7	131.8	-0.1	5.8
Architectural materials	139.3	138.9	133.0	0.3	4.7
Structural materials	142.1	143.1	132.2	-0.7	7.5
Mechanical materials	140.6	142.5	130.1	-1.3	8.1
Electrical materials	128.4	128.2	118.4	0.2	8.4

Construction Building Material Price Index: Non-residential

February 1988

The price index for non-residential construction building materials (1981 = 100) rose to 136.3 in February, up 0.4% from the revised figure for January and 6.2% higher than a year ago.

Between January and February 1988, there were price increases in several products made of steel, including metal roofing and siding, which offset some minor decreases, principally in prices for lumber.

Between February 1987 and February 1988, prices for electrical materials rose 7.7%, due mainly to an increase in prices for building wires and cables. Prices for mechanical materials increased by 6.7%, attributable largely to

elevator and air-conditioning equipment. Structural materials were up 6.5%, due primarily to increases in concrete bricks and blocks and ready-mix concrete. Architectural materials rose 5.4%, principally due to an increase in metal roofing and siding.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 423 (level 2).

The first quarter 1988 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$16.50/\$66) will be available in June. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Construction Building Material Price Indexes: Non-residential

February 1988
(1981 = 100)

	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	% Change	
				Feb. 1988/ Jan. 1988	Feb. 1988/ Feb. 1987
Total materials	136.3	135.8	128.4	0.4	6.2
Architectural materials	137.7	137.2	130.6	0.4	5.4
Structural materials	135.1	134.3	126.8	0.6	6.5
Mechanical materials	139.7	139.6	130.9	0.1	6.7
Electrical materials	129.8	129.2	120.5	0.5	7.7

Data Availability Announcements

Regional Distribution of Federal Extramural Expenditures on Science and Technology 1986-87

Federal government departments have identified the regional distribution of \$1.2 billion spent on extramural scientific and technological activities in 1986-87.

Federal funding for the three largest metropolitan areas and the provinces was distributed as follows: National Capital Region (NCR) 10%, Montreal 21%, Toronto 18%, Quebec (excluding Montreal and NCR) 7%, Ontario (excluding Toronto and NCR) 14%, British Columbia 11%, Alberta 5%, Nova Scotia 3%, Manitoba 3%, other regions 8%.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Bert Plaus (613-951-6347), Science and Technology Statistics Section, Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

Steel Ingots Week Ending April 2, 1988

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian steel ingot production for the week ending April 2, 1988 totalled 294 510 tonnes, an increase of 1.8% from the preceding week's total of 289 255 tonnes but down 6.5% from the year-earlier level of 315 009 tonnes.

The cumulative total in 1988 was 3 810 735 tonnes, an increase of 0.2% from 3 804 880 tonnes for the same period in 1987.

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

Cement February 1988

Canadian manufacturers shipped 500 122 tonnes of cement in February 1988, an increase of 11.0% from the 450 712 tonnes shipped a year earlier and up 18.2% from the 423 256^r (revised figure) tonnes shipped in January 1988.

January to February 1988 shipments reached 923 378^r tonnes, up 6.9% from the 863 397 tonnes shipped during the same period in 1987.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 92 and 122 (series 13).

The February 1988 issue of *Cement* (44-001, \$4.50/45) will be available the week of April 11. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Sharon McLinton (613-951-3527), Industry Division.

Publications Released

Communications Service Bulletin,
Vol. 18, No. 1, Telecommunication
Statistics, Fourth Quarter 1987.
Catalogue number 56-001
(Canada: \$7.50/\$45; Other Countries:
\$8.50/\$51).

Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern
Statistics, December 1987.
Catalogue number 63-011
(Canada: \$5.50/\$55; Other Countries:
\$6.50/\$65).

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 613-951-7276.

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.

**The
Daily**

Statistics Canada's Official Release Bulletin for Statistical Information

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

Published by the Communications Division (Director - Douglas Newson)
Statistics Canada, 3-O, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613-951-1103)

Editor: Deanna Jamieson (613-951-1198)

Published under the authority of the Minister of Supply and Services Canada. Statistics Canada should be credited when reproducing or quoting any part of this document. Extracts from this publication may be reproduced for individual use without permission provided the source is fully acknowledged. However, reproduction of this publication in whole or in part for purposes of resale or redistribution requires written permission from the Publishing Services Group, Permissions Officer, Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010497240