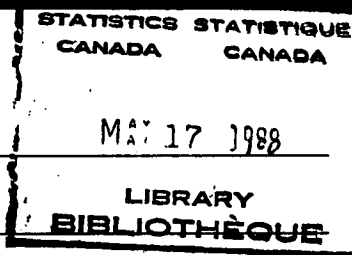


The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, May 17, 1988

Major Releases



Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, March 1988

2

- The reconciled balance of international trade between Canada and the United States was \$4.3 billion in Canada's favour in the first quarter of 1988, a decrease of more than \$200 million from the first quarter of 1987.

Non-residential Construction Output Price Indexes, First Quarter 1988

9

- Non-residential construction prices rose 1.8% in the quarter and 5.4% from the previous year.

Data Availability Announcements

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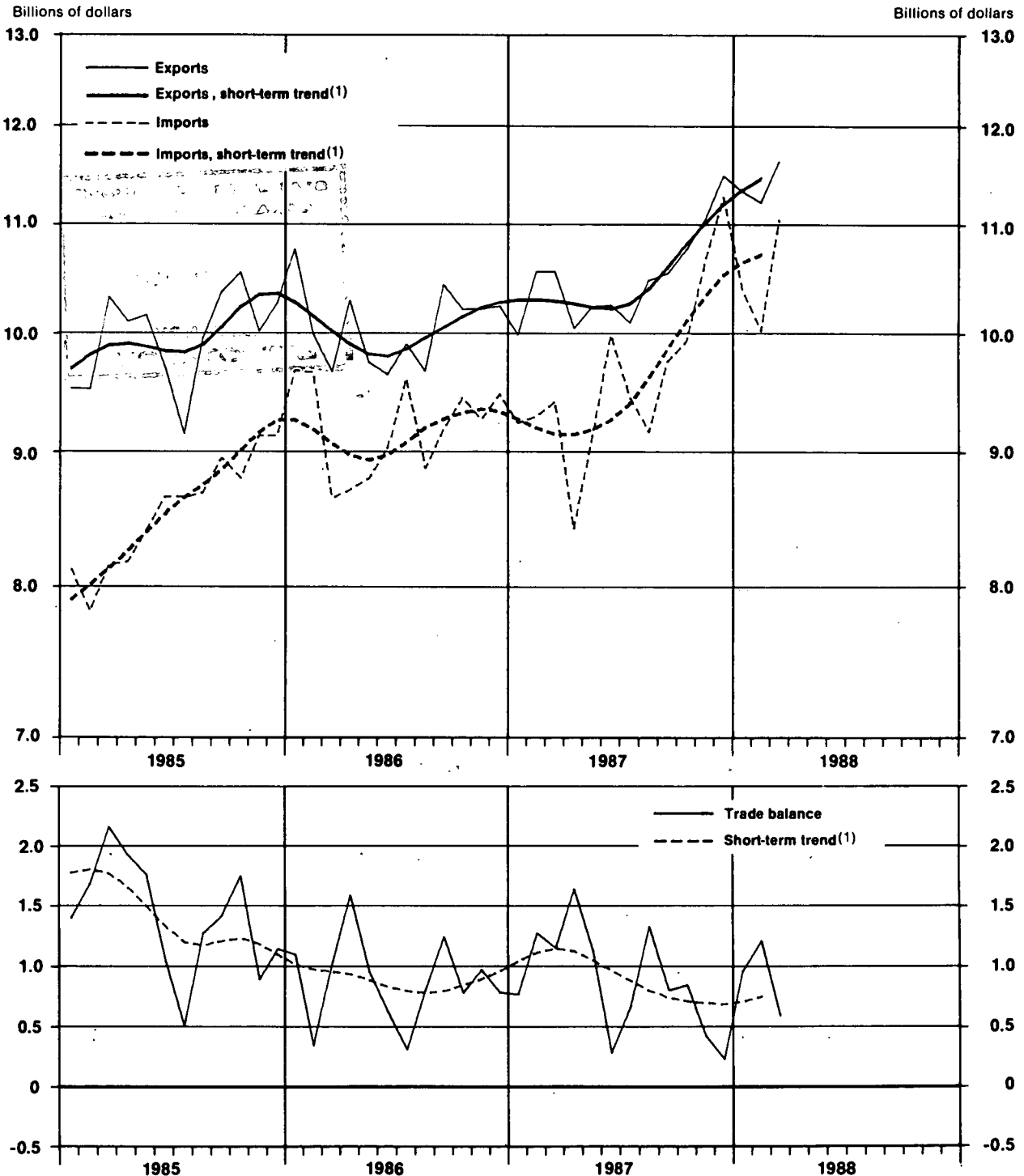
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Major Releases

Imports, Exports, and Trade Balance, All Countries, Seasonally Adjusted Balance of Payments Basis



(1) The short-term trend gives a clearer picture of the direction and rate of change of trade by averaging the substantial monthly fluctuations which frequently occur in trade. The trend for the last month is not shown in the charts above since it frequently changes significantly with the addition of succeeding months of data.

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis

March 1988

Month-to-month Overview

Canada's international merchandise trade surplus with all its trading partners in March 1988 was \$578 million – \$614 million lower than the revised level for February. The surplus rose by \$735 million in January and by \$250 million in February. The surplus with the United States alone fell by \$568 million in March to \$1.0 billion. The deterioration of the balance in March was largely the result of an increase in imports that was double the increase in exports.

Following decreases of 1.3% in January and 1.0% in February, exports rose 3.7% in March from the level the month before, reaching \$11.6 billion. The "other energy products" category contributed most to this growth in exports.

Imports picked up again in March, following consecutive decreases in January and February, rising from \$10.0 billion in February to \$11.0 billion in March. Among the commodity categories contributing the most to this increase in imports were miscellaneous consumer goods and industrial and agricultural machinery.

Short-term Trend (excludes latest month)

The monthly movements shown for the short-term trend may differ from those shown for seasonally adjusted values published in other sections of this report. The short-term trend is the result of a weighted moving average, and it is therefore plausible that the trend of the seasonally adjusted values may not point in the same direction as the short-term trend.

Exports

The short-term trend for exports was up in February for an eighth straight month. The rate of increase was 0.9%, down slightly from 1.2% the month before. Exports of passenger autos, newsprint paper and precious metals posted the largest increases. In the case of passenger auto exports, this was the seventh straight increase. The trend for wheat exports,

Note to Users

With the introduction of the January 1988 trade statistics:

- Collection and compilation of import and export data are henceforth based on the **Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System**. Users should therefore interpret the month-to-month movements in commodity data with caution.
- Revisions to imports for the previous month are greater than usual but these revisions should be much smaller for subsequent months.
- Recording of imports is henceforth based on the date the merchandise is released by customs, instead of the customs-stamp date.
- The import and export totals in table 1 of this release are presented on both a customs and a balance of payments basis.
- The customs-basis import data used to derive the balance of payments data are presented on a consignment basis, as before.
- For the short-term trend, a 13-month weighted moving average method is now used instead of a shorter term trend as calculated before.
- Raw and seasonally adjusted data for the previous periods reflect the above changes where applicable.

For more details, please refer to the text and tables.

which has been up since September 1987, posted a 7.9% gain in February, following a 9.7% increase in January. As far as decreases were concerned, the largest declines were recorded for exports of motor vehicle parts, crude petroleum and "other end products".

(continued on page 4)

Imports

The short-term trend for imports rose for an eleventh straight month, posting a 0.6% rise in February, compared to 1.0% in January. The largest increases were those for imports in the "other industrial machinery", "other equipment and tools" and "miscellaneous end products" groups. Although less significant in terms of value, the increase in the trend for imports of agricultural machinery was still more than 11%; this was the fourth straight month in which the rate of increase for this commodity category was higher than 10%. However, the trend for imports of motor vehicle parts fell 5.3%, compared to decreases of 0.1% in December 1987 and 3.4% in January 1988. Other large declines were noted in the trends for imports of passenger automobiles and petroleum and coal products.

Commodity Highlights

Exports

Exports rose by \$409 million between February and March 1988. This increase followed drops of \$150 million in January and \$111 million in February 1988. Exports of coal increased the most (+\$138 million), followed by exports of passenger automobiles (+\$74 million) and newsprint paper (+\$70 million). Exports of organic chemicals also posted a large increase, climbing by \$52 million to \$173 million. At \$1.6 billion, exports of passenger automobiles were at their highest level since December 1986. The most notable decreases were those for exports of woodpulp (-\$86 million), trucks (-\$74 million) and television and telecommunication equipment (-\$57 million).

Imports

Imports rose by \$1.0 billion in March, reversing the downward movements recorded in January and February. Imports of inedible fabricated materials and "other end products" increased by \$217 million and \$120 million, while imports of office machines and equipment and "other industrial machinery" climbed by \$96 million and \$82 million. Food imports rose to

\$600 million in March; of this total, \$100 million was for cocoa, coffee and tea, \$86 million for fresh fruit and \$55 million for sugar. Imports of office machines and equipment increased to \$542 million. The largest decreases were those for imports of passenger cars (-\$143 million), motor vehicle parts (-\$104 million), aircraft (-\$99 million) and agricultural machinery (-\$25 million).

Trading Partner Highlights

Exports

Exports to the United States went up by \$290 million in March, rising to \$8.6 billion. Exports to the U.S. accounted for 74.4% of total exports, a decrease from the figure of 76.3% recorded for all of 1987. Increases were also recorded for exports to "other countries" (+\$98 million), "other EEC countries" (+\$49 million) and Japan (+\$25 million). Decreases were noted for exports to "other OECD countries" (-\$46 million) and the United Kingdom (-\$7 million).

Imports

Imports from the United States totalled \$7.6 billion, a gain of \$858 million from February 1988. Imports from the U.S. comprised 69.3% of total imports in March, up slightly from the figure of 68.7% recorded for all of 1987. Imports from "other countries" (+\$149 million), "other OECD countries" (+\$58 million), the United Kingdom (+\$22 million) and "other EEC countries" (+\$8 million) all increased from the month before. Imports from Japan fell by \$72 million.

Quarter-to-quarter Overview

Exports

Exports totalled \$34.1 billion in the first quarter, \$865 million more than in the fourth quarter of 1987. On a quarterly basis, the largest increases were those for exports of passenger autos (+\$760 million) and agricultural and fish products (+\$272 million). The largest decreases were those for exports of motor vehicle parts and lumber, both of which fell by \$419 million.

(continued on page 5)

Imports

Imports totalled \$31.4 billion in the first quarter, \$410 million less than in the fourth quarter of 1987. This decrease was mainly the result of a drop of more than \$1.6 billion in imports of automotive products, of which \$954 million was for motor vehicle parts alone. Imports of energy products also posted a large decline on a quarterly basis, falling by \$344 million from the previous quarter. The largest increase was that for imports of industrial and agricultural machinery, which rose by \$580 million.

Canada/United States Reconciliation Customs-Basis Statistics, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Following reconciliation of the statistics for international merchandise trade between Canada and the United States, the cumulative value of Canadian exports to the United States on a customs basis, corrected for undercoverage of exports, differences in the definition of "trade", "transportation charges" and so on, totalled \$25.6 billion for the first three months of 1988 – up 8.0% from the same period in 1987.

Imports, for their part, totalled \$21.3 billion, 11.0% more than in the first quarter of

1987. As a result of these movements, the reconciled balance of international trade between the two trading partners, as officially recognized by Statistics Canada and the U.S. Bureau of the Census, was \$4.3 billion in Canada's favour, \$205 million less than in the first quarter of 1987.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3651, 3685-3713, 3718, 3719 and 3887-3913.

(see tables on pages 6 to 8)

The March 1988 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade (H.S. Based)* (65-001, \$16.50/\$165) will be available the first week of June. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), Trade Information Unit, or Jean-Pierre Simard (613-951-1711) (for analysis information), or John Butterill (613-951-4808) (for price-index information), Trade Measures and Analysis Section, International Trade Division.

For summary information, available the day of release, order the *Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade (H.S. Based)* (65-001P, \$5.50/\$55).

Table 1
Merchandise Trade of Canada
 March 1988

	Customs Basis				Balance of Payments Basis					
	Exports ¹ raw	Imports raw	Exports ¹ raw	Imports raw	Exports ¹ S.A. ³	Imports S.A. ³	Balance S.A. ³	Period-to-period change ²		
								Exports ¹ S.A. ³	Imports S.A. ³	Balance S.A. ³
				\$ millions				%	%	\$ millions
1982	84,528	67,854	84,393	66,739	84,393	66,738	17,654	0.0	-13.5	10,362
1983	90,610	75,518	90,556	73,098	90,556	73,098	17,457	7.3	9.5	-197
1984	112,382	95,458	111,730	91,493	111,730	91,492	20,237	23.4	25.2	2,780
1985	119,472	104,353	119,566	102,641	119,566	102,641	16,926	7.0	12.2	-3,312
1986	120,519	112,676	120,593	110,205	120,593	110,205	10,388	0.9	7.4	-6,537
1987	125,032	116,422	125,765	115,424	125,765	115,424	10,341	4.3	4.7	-47
1985										
I quarter	28,784	24,168	28,728	23,676	29,355	24,106	5,249	1.6	3.1	-275
II quarter	31,376	27,292	31,409	27,180	29,948	25,226	4,721	2.0	4.6	-528
III quarter	27,804	25,901	27,982	25,352	29,459	26,274	3,185	-1.6	4.2	-1,537
IV quarter	31,508	26,993	31,447	26,433	30,805	27,034	3,770	4.6	2.9	586
1986										
I quarter	29,171	27,676	29,554	27,031	30,386	27,943	2,443	-1.4	3.4	-1,328
II quarter	31,265	29,658	31,182	28,936	29,629	26,495	3,134	-2.5	-5.2	692
III quarter	28,415	27,351	28,558	26,769	29,956	27,630	2,326	1.1	4.3	-809
IV quarter	31,667	27,990	31,299	27,469	30,622	28,137	2,486	2.2	1.8	160
1987										
I quarter	29,748	27,858	30,274	27,472	31,036	27,886	3,150	1.4	-0.9	664
II quarter	31,704	29,657	31,819	29,410	30,476	27,467	3,008	-1.8	-1.5	-142
III quarter	29,618	27,809	29,846	27,484	31,041	28,297	2,744	1.9	3.0	-265
IV quarter	33,962	31,099	33,826	31,058	33,212	31,773	1,439	7.0	12.3	-1,305
1988										
I quarter	33,540	33,753	33,347	31,581	34,077	31,363	2,714	2.6	-1.3	1,275
1987										
January	9,165	8,791	9,347	8,540	9,969	9,219	751	-2.5	-2.5	-16
February	9,901	9,016	10,078	9,040	10,534	9,272	1,263	5.7	0.6	512
March	10,682	10,051	10,849	9,892	10,533	9,396	1,137	0.0	1.3	-126
April	10,234	9,429	10,327	9,344	10,024	8,395	1,629	-4.8	-10.6	492
May	10,668	9,520	10,605	9,456	10,222	9,107	1,115	2.0	8.5	-514
June	10,802	10,708	10,887	10,610	10,230	9,965	264	0.1	9.4	-850
July	9,524	9,502	9,553	9,486	10,074	9,428	646	-1.5	-5.4	382
August	9,361	8,561	9,465	8,493	10,451	9,136	1,315	3.7	-3.1	669
September	10,732	9,746	10,827	9,505	10,516	9,733	783	0.6	6.5	-532
October	11,326	10,139	11,245	10,082	10,737	9,907	830	2.1	1.8	48
November	11,472	10,619	11,318	10,675	11,028	10,627	401	2.7	7.3	-429
December	11,164	10,341	11,263	10,301	11,447	11,239	208	3.8	5.8	-194
1988										
January	10,173	11,895	10,458	9,631	11,297	10,354	943	-1.3	-7.9	735
February	11,198	10,363	10,875	10,232	11,186	9,993	1,193	-1.0	-3.5	250
March	12,170	11,495	12,013	11,718	11,595	11,016	578	3.7	10.2	-614
Year-to-date										
1987	29,748	27,858	30,274	27,472	31,036	27,886	3,150	2.1	-0.2	708
1988	33,540	33,753	33,347	31,581	34,077	31,363	2,714	9.8	12.5	-437

¹ Exports = Domestic Exports + Re-exports.

² Year-to-year, quarter-to-quarter, month-to-month.

³ Seasonally Adjusted.

Note: - Due to rounding, monthly data may not add up to quarterly data and quarterly data may not add up to annual data.
 - The 1986 and 1987 figures do not include the final revisions.

Table 2
Merchandise Trade by Principal Trading Areas
 March 1988
 Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis

	Period-to-period change								Change over previous year
	Feb.	March	Period-to-period change		Feb.	March	Year-to-date		
			Feb.	March					
	\$ millions		%	%	\$ millions		\$ millions	%	\$ millions
Exports to:¹									
United States	8,339.4	8,629.5	-1.7	3.5	-145.0	290.1	25,453.4	7.2	1,706.6
United Kingdom	269.7	262.7	-15.1	-2.6	-47.9	-7.0	850.1	1.4	12.1
Japan	672.9	698.0	1.8	3.7	11.7	25.1	2,032.1	34.2	518.0
EEC '86 excl. UK	524.4	572.9	-6.5	9.2	-36.6	48.5	1,658.4	5.5	86.2
Other OECD '86	271.4	225.6	13.7	-16.9	32.7	-45.8	735.7	27.9	160.3
Other Countries	1,107.9	1,205.9	7.2	8.8	74.5	97.9	3,347.3	20.0	557.3
Total	11,185.8	11,594.6	-1.0	3.7	-110.7	408.8	34,077.0	9.8	3,040.5
Imports from:¹									
United States	6,771.3	7,629.0	-4.8	12.7	-340.8	857.7	21,512.4	12.3	2,359.2
United Kingdom	404.3	426.6	4.3	5.5	16.7	22.4	1,218.4	14.9	157.8
Japan	728.4	656.3	14.7	-9.9	93.1	-72.1	2,020.0	3.4	67.1
EEC '86 excl. UK	897.3	905.3	-4.4	0.9	-41.0	8.0	2,741.0	18.5	428.1
Other OECD '86	239.6	297.8	-24.3	24.3	-76.7	58.2	853.8	9.4	73.5
Other Countries	952.3	1,101.4	-1.2	15.7	-11.9	149.1	3,017.8	14.9	391.5
Total	9,993.2	11,016.4	-3.5	10.2	-360.6	1,023.2	31,363.3	12.5	3,477.1
Balance with:									
United States	1,568.2	1,000.5			195.9	-567.7	3,941.0		-652.6
United Kingdom	-134.5	-163.9			-64.7	-29.4	-368.3		-145.7
Japan	-55.5	41.7			-81.4	97.3	12.1		450.9
EEC '86 excl. UK	-372.9	-332.4			4.4	40.5	-1,082.5		-341.8
Other OECD '86	31.8	-72.2			109.4	-104.0	-118.1		86.8
Other Countries	155.7	104.5			86.4	-51.2	329.5		165.8
Total	1,192.7	578.2			249.9	-614.4	2,713.6		-436.6

¹ Exports to "Other OECD Countries" and imports from the United Kingdom, "Other OECD Countries" and "Other Countries" do not have seasonality. Consequently, these series are not seasonally adjusted.

Note: - Portugal and Spain are included in the EEC.
 - Imports for March 1988 by country of origin from the United States (including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) amounted to \$7,375.9 million. This represents the starting figure from which the Canada/United States reconciliation takes place.

Table 2A

Reconciled merchandise trade between Canada and the United States

Raw Data			January to March	
			1987	1988
\$ millions				
Exports	Customs Basis	United States	22,954.0	25,308.6
		Puerto Rico	59.6	65.9
		U.S. Virgin Islands	1.4	3.6
		Published total	23,015.0	25,378.1
	Reconciliation Adjustments		688.3	223.5
	Reconciled Basis		23,703.2	25,601.6
	Other B.O.P. Adjustments		-129.2	-223.6
	B.O.P. Basis		23,574.0	25,378.0
Imports	Customs Basis	United States	19,153.2	21,508.6
		Puerto Rico	56.5	58.8
		U.S. Virgin Islands	6.0	1.0
		Published total	19,215.7	21,568.4
	Reconciliation Adjustments		-22.1	-271.1
	Reconciled basis		19,193.6	21,297.3
	Other B.O.P. Adjustments		-249.9	549.5
	B.O.P. Basis		18,943.7	21,846.8
Balance	Reconciled Basis		4,509.6	4,304.3
	B.O.P. Basis		4,630.3	3,531.2

Note: Non-receipt of export documents accounts for most of the reconciliation adjustment.
B.O.P. Balance of Payments.

Non-residential Construction Output Price Index

First Quarter 1988

The price index for non-residential construction at the Canada level (1981=100) reached 124.0 in the first quarter of 1988, an increase of 1.8% over the fourth quarter of 1987. The increase of 5.4% over the same quarter one year ago is the smallest yearly increase since the third quarter of 1986. However, this easing of price increases may be short-lived as many union contracts are up for renewal in the second quarter of 1988; additionally, higher steel prices are expected to affect these indexes later on in the year.

Toronto continued to be a very active market with labour and material shortages contributing to a 2.1% rise in non-residential construction prices over the previous quarter. Montreal also remained busy with a jump of 1.3% in prices and the strong possibility of

continued steady growth as a contract with moderate wage increases has already been agreed upon. Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton, while still at less than peak activity levels, showed some growth with quarterly increases of 1.7%, 1.6% and 1.5% respectively. Ottawa, at 1.1%, had the smallest change in prices.

In the electrical and mechanical trades, very large increases in the price of copper (up to 44.0% for some copper wire) had their effect on the overall costs of building construction.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 414 and 415.

The first quarter 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 Prices Division (613-951-9606).

Output Price Indexes of Non-residential Construction

First Quarter 1988
(1981=100)

Seven Cities and Canada Indexes								
	Halifax	Montreal	Ottawa	Toronto	Calgary	Edmonton	Vancouver	Canada
Quarterly Indexes								
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	144.0	93.7	95.0	110.1	120.5
1987 Q4	123.6	133.7	131.3	145.9	95.0 ^r	95.6	111.4	121.8 ^r
1988 Q1	125.4	135.5	132.7	149.0	96.4	97.1	113.3	124.0
Percentage Change								
Q3'87/Q2'87	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.6	0.3	0.7	0.8	1.3
Q4'87/Q3'87	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.3	1.4 ^r	0.6	1.2	1.1 ^r
Q1'88/Q4'87	1.5	1.3	1.1	2.1	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8
Q1'88/Q1'87	3.5	5.6	4.0	6.0	3.7	3.7	4.7	5.4

^r Revised.

Data Availability Announcements

Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin

February 1988

Highlights from the February issue of the *Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin* are as follows:

- Preliminary operational data for the first two months of 1988 show that passengers carried on major Canadian air carriers increased by 7.4% from the same period in 1987. (Available on CANSIM: matrix 385.)
- Commercial charter traffic to southern destinations continued to record substantial growth. When comparing 1987 figures to 1986, the south region recorded a 33.0% increase (347,659 more passengers) in traffic.
- Local and commuter carrier traffic increased by 30.9% during the second quarter 1987 compared to the second quarter 1986, with a total of 2.2 million outbound and inbound passengers recorded at the Canadian airports.
- The city-pair, Montreal-New York, which ranked second in transborder traffic, recorded 75,600 passengers during the first quarter of 1987, down 21.7% from the first quarter of 1986.
- In 1986, Ontario airports accommodated more than 22 million revenue passengers, representing 37.9% of passengers enplaned and deplaned on unit toll and charter services at all Canadian airports.

The Vol. 20, No. 5 issue of the *Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin* (51-004, \$8.50/\$85) will be available shortly. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact the Aviation Statistics Centre (819-997-1986), Transportation Division.

Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products

February 1988

Factory shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 58 705 tonnes in February 1988, an increase of 10.5% from the 53 705 tonnes shipped during the previous month.

Year-to-date shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 111 847 tonnes in 1988, an increase of 5.8% from the 105 679 tonnes shipped during the same period in 1987.

Production and export market data for selected commodities are also available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The February 1988 issue of *Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products* (41-006, \$4.50/\$45) is scheduled to be released the week of May 30. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Bruno Pepin (613-951-3522), Industry Division.

Steel Exports

April 1988 (Preliminary)

Data on preliminary steel exports for April 1988 are now available.

The final data will be published in *Primary Iron and Steel*, April 1988 (41-001, \$4.50/\$45), scheduled to be released towards the end of May. See "How to Order Publications".

For further detailed information on this release, contact G.W. Barrett (613-951-3515), Industry Division.

Stocks of Frozen Poultry Products

May 1, 1988

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

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.

The March 1988 issue of *Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry* (23-003, \$11/\$110) is scheduled for release on June 1st. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Robert Koroluk (613-951-2549), Agriculture Division.

Export and Import Price Indexes

March 1988

Current and fixed weighted export and import price indexes, on a 1981=100 balance of payments basis, are now available. Price indexes are listed from March 1981 to February 1988 for the five commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3633-3638.

Customs based current and fixed weighted U.S. price indexes are also available. Price indexes are listed from January 1981 to March 1988 on a 1981=100 basis. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 "All Countries" and "U.S. Only" SITC section indexes.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3639-3642.

The March 1988 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (H.S. Based) (65-001 \$16.50/\$165), will be available the first week of June. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact John Butterill (613-951-4808), Price Index Unit, International Trade Division.

**The
Daily**

Statistics Canada's Official Release Bulletin for Statistical Information

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

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