

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, May 2, 1988

Major Releases

Raw Materials Price Index, March 1988

2

- The RMPI dropped for a fourth consecutive month, down 0.6% from February.

Industrial Product Price Index, March 1988

3

- The IPPI increased 0.2% from the previous month and 4.6% on a year-over-year basis.

Data Availability Announcements

Production of Biscuits, First Quarter 1988

5

Provincial Government Finance, 1985

5

Publication Released

6

Index to Data Releases, April 1988

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Major Releases

Raw Materials Price Index

March 1988

Monthly Change

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1981=100) decreased 0.6% between February and March 1988, reaching a preliminary level of 98.3. With the mineral fuels component excluded, the RMPI rose 0.6% from February. The main contributors to the monthly change were:

- Mineral fuels, down 2.7%, owing mainly to an estimated 3.3% drop for crude mineral oils.
- Non-ferrous metals, up 2.1%, largely because of a 41.9% increase in nickel prices.
- Wood products, up 0.9%, owing mainly to a 1.9% increase in prices for logs and bolts.

Year-over-year Change

Between March 1987 and March 1988, the RMPI advanced 0.8%. With the mineral fuels component excluded, the year-over-year advance was 8.5%. The main contributors to the year-over-year change were:

- Mineral fuels, down 9.8% from the previous year, largely owing to a decrease in prices for crude mineral oils.
- Non-ferrous metals, up 31.4%, mainly as a result of increases in copper, nickel, lead and zinc prices.
- Wood products, up 8.5%, largely because of a 14.7% increase in prices for logs and bolts.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1980.

The March 1988 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$16.50/\$165) will be available towards the end of May. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Raw Materials Price Index

(1981 = 100)

	Relative Importance	Index March '88 ¹	% Change	
			March '88/ Feb. '88	March '88/ March '87
Raw materials total	100	98.3	-0.6	0.8
Mineral fuels	45	80.6	-2.7	-9.8
Vegetable products	11	86.8	-0.9	4.8
Animal and animal products	20	116.6	0.4	1.7
Wood products	8	129.5	0.9	8.5
Ferrous materials	2	110.7	0.1	3.9
Non-ferrous metals	11	115.6	2.1	31.4
Non-metallic minerals	3	130.1	0.5	0.9
Total excluding mineral fuels	55	113.0	0.6	8.5

¹ These indexes are preliminary.

Industrial Product Price Index

March 1988

Preliminary figures for the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1981 = 100) showed a rise of 0.2% in March 1988 over February 1988. Since March 1987, the index was up 4.6%, slightly more than the 12-month change recorded last month. With the petroleum and coal products component excluded, the year-to-year increase was 5.5%.

Highlights

- The primary metal products index rose 3.6% in March, reflecting a very large price increase for nickel products (39.1%), coupled with smaller increases for several other metals. Drops of 3.9% for copper and copper alloy products, 1.6% for gold and 2.1% for silver only partially offset these price rises.
- Newsprint, woodpulp and motor vehicles were down marginally in March, once again reflecting the effects of an increase (0.8%) in the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar.
- Preliminary estimates for the index of petroleum and coal products showed a drop of 1.8% from February to March, due largely to decreases registered for motor gasoline.
- The rubber, leather and plastic fabricated products index rose 0.7% in March 1988, mainly attributable to advances of 3.6% in prices for plastic bags and shipping sacks, 1.6% for rubber heels and boots and 6.5% for leather tanneries.
- The chemicals index rose 0.4% in March, reflecting higher prices for organic industrial chemicals, up 1.3% and synthetic resins, up 0.6%.
- Higher prices for concrete building blocks (+2.1%), concrete pipe and fittings (+0.6%) and glass products (+1.1%) resulted in an increase of 0.6% in the index for non-metallic mineral products.

(see table on page 4)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1960-1967 and 1970.

The March 1988 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$16.50/\$165) will be available towards the end of May. See "How to Order Publications".

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Industrial Product Price Indexes
(1981 = 100)

Index	Relative Importance ¹	Index ² March '88	% Change	
			Mar. '88/ Feb. '88	Mar. '88/ Mar. '87
Industrial Product Price Index - Total	100.0	125.9	0.2	4.6
Total IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products³	89.3	129.4	0.4	5.5
Intermediate goods	61.6	123.8	0.5	6.9
First stage intermediate goods	14.6	121.3	2.3	16.0
Second stage intermediate goods	47.0	124.5	-0.1	4.0
Finished goods	38.4	129.2	-0.2	1.2
Finished foods and feeds	10.3	132.9	-0.1	1.9
Capital equipment	10.2	131.0	-0.1	0.8
All other finished goods	17.9	126.7	-0.4	1.0
Aggregation by commodities:				
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.7	125.8	0	2.0
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	7.0	121.6	-0.4	3.3
Beverages	1.9	144.5	0.0	2.8
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.7	152.9	-0.1	1.3
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	2.8	126.4	0.7	6.0
Textile products	2.4	116.7	0.1	3.8
Knitted products and clothing	2.4	123.7	0.2	3.1
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	4.3	122.9	-0.1	2.5
Furniture and fixtures	1.5	136.3	0.4	3.4
Paper and paper products	8.1	137.0	-0.2	10.8
Printing and publishing	2.4	147.5	0.1	5.2
Primary metal products	8.8	129.2	3.6	22.2
Metal fabricated products	5.3	129.4	0.2	3.9
Machinery and equipment	4.8	127.3	0.2	1.8
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	11.6	131.0	-0.3	-1.1
Electrical and communication products	5.0	129.1	0.1	3.8
Non-metallic mineral products	2.5	139.4	0.6	4.1
Petroleum and coal products ³	10.7	97.0	-1.8	-4.0
Chemical, chemical products	7.1	128.1	0.4	9.6
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.3	133.5	0.4	2.9
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.8	104.5	-0.2	5.1

¹ Weights are derived from the "make" matrix of the 1981 Input/Output table.

² Indexes are preliminary.

³ This index is estimated for the current month.

Data Availability Announcements

Production of Biscuits

First Quarter 1988

Production of biscuits (all types) totalled 45 160 562 kilograms during the first quarter of 1988, a decrease of 3.7% from the 46 899 568 kilograms produced during the first quarter of 1987.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 190.

The first quarter 1988 issue of *Production of Selected Biscuits* (32-026, \$6.25/\$25) is scheduled to be released the week of May 11. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Brian Preston (613-951-3511), Industry Division.

Provincial Government Finance 1985

Revised data for provincial and territorial government revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1986 are now available. These actual data replace the estimates previously available.

Data users should note that data from 1975 to 1988 have been revised to reflect changes in the treatment of government employee pension plans.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2751-2763.

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

Publication Released

Department Store Sales and Stocks,
September 1987. Catalogue number 63-002
(Canada: \$13/\$130; Other Countries:
\$14/\$140).

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Index to Data Releases April 1988

Subject	Reference Period	Release Date
Aggregate Productivity Measures and Unit Labour Cost	1987	April 25, 1988
Appliances, Specified Domestic Electrical	February 1988	April 5, 1988
Asphalt Roofing	February 1988	April 6, 1988
Automotive Products, Canada's Foreign Trade	January to December 1987	April 15, 1988
Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin	January 1988	April 18, 1988
Batteries, Electric Storage Board, Rigid Insulating	February 1988	April 5, 1988
	February 1988	April 5, 1988
	March 1988	April 29, 1988
Boxes, Corrugated	February 1988	April 14, 1988
	March 1988	April 26, 1988
Building Material Price Indexes, Construction	February 1988	April 7, 1988
Building Permits	January 1988	April 13, 1988
Canadian Social Trends	Spring 1988	April 13, 1988
Cancer Statistics, Canadian	1988/1983	April 27, 1988
Caterers	February 1988	April 15, 1988
Cement	February 1988	April 7, 1988
Census Families for Canada, the Provinces and Territories, Estimates	June 1, 1981-87	April 21, 1988
Census of Canada	1986	April 20, 1988
Chain Store Stocks	February 1988	April 29, 1988
Cheese, Process	February 1988	April 13, 1988
	March 1988	April 29, 1988
Chemicals, Industrial	February 1988	April 11, 1988



Subject	Reference Period	Release Date
Coal Statistics	February 1988	April 28, 1988
Coke Statistics	February 1988	April 28, 1988
Commodity, Exports	January 1988	April 6, 1988
Commodity, Imports	January 1988	April 8, 1988
Composite Leading Indicator	January 1988	April 7, 1988
Consolidated Government Finance Data	1984	April 25, 1988
Construction Building Material Price Indexes	February 1988	April 7, 1988
Construction Type Plywood	February 1988	April 21, 1988
Construction Union Wage Rate Index	March 1988	April 21, 1988
Consumer Price Index	March 1988	April 15, 1988
Corporation Financial Statistics: Preliminary Data on Matched Corporations	1986	April 21, 1988
Corporation Taxation Statistics	1986	April 18, 1988
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers	March 1988	April 26, 1988
Crime Statistics	1987	April 29, 1988
Crude Oil	January 1988	April 25, 1988
Dairy Review	February 1988	April 13, 1988
Department Store Sales and Stocks	February 1988	April 25, 1988
Department Store Sales by Province and Metropolitan Area	February 1988	April 13, 1988
Disabled Persons in Canada, Labour Market Activity	October 1983 to June 1984	April 28, 1988
Disease Summary, Notifiable	Four-week Period Ending March 12, 1988	April 18, 1988
Earnings	February 1988	April 27, 1988
Economic Observer, Canadian	April 1988	April 21, 1988
Eggs, Production	February 1988	April 13, 1988
Electric Power Statistics	February 1988	April 28, 1988
Electric Utilities Construction Price Indexes	1987	April 29, 1988
Employment, Earnings and Hours	February 1988	April 27, 1988
Export Price Indexes	February 1988	April 19, 1988
Exports by Commodity	January 1988	April 6, 1988
Exports, Steel	March 1988	April 15, 1988
Farm Capital, Value	1987	April 21, 1988
Farm Land and Buildings, Value per Acre	1987	April 21, 1988
Farm Product Price Index	February 1988	April 11, 1988
Fats	January 1988	April 13, 1988
	February 1988	April 14, 1988
Finance, Consolidated Government Data	1984	April 25, 1988
Financial Indexes, Selected	March 1988	April 12, 1988
Footwear Statistics	February 1988	April 13, 1988

Subject	Reference Period	Release Date
Gas, Natural	January 1988	April 25, 1988
Gas, Natural (Sales)	February 1988	April 19, 1988
Government Finance, Consolidated Data	1984	April 25, 1988
Grains, Exports of Major	January 1988	April 21, 1988
Grains, Major	February 1988	April 13, 1988
Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost by Industry, Real	February 1988	April 28, 1988
Gypsum Products	February 1988	April 5, 1988
	March 1988	April 29, 1988
Hardboard	February 1988	April 11, 1988
Help-wanted Index	March 1988	April 14, 1988
High Pressure Decorative Laminate Sheet	First Quarter 1988	April 21, 1988
Hospital Statistics	1985-86	April 13, 1988
Hours	February 1988	April 27, 1988
Housing Price Index, New	February 1988	April 8, 1988
Housing Starts	February 1988	April 15, 1988
Import Price Indexes	February 1988	April 19, 1988
Imports by Commodity	January 1988	April 8, 1988
Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins	February 1988	April 11, 1988
Ingots, Steel	February 1988	April 12, 1988
	Week Ending April 2, 1988	April 7, 1988
	Week Ending April 9, 1988	April 13, 1988
	Week Ending April 16, 1988	April 21, 1988
	Week Ending April 23, 1988	April 27, 1988
	Week Ending March 26, 1988	April 5, 1988
Injuries, Work	1982-86	April 21, 1988
Instant Skim Milk Powder	February 1988	April 13, 1988
Insulating Board, Rigid	March 1988	April 29, 1988
	February 1988	April 5, 1988
International Investment Position, Canada's	1978 to 1987	April 25, 1988
Inventories in Manufacturing Industries	February 1988	April 21, 1988
Investment Position, Canada's International	1978 to 1987	April 25, 1988
Labour Cost, Unit	1987	April 25, 1988
Labour Force Survey	March 1988	April 8, 1988
Labour Income, Estimates	January 1988	April 11, 1988
Labour Market Activity of Disabled Persons in Canada	October 1983 to June 1984	April 28, 1988
Lamps, Electric	March 1988	April 21, 1988
Libraries, Public	1986	April 28, 1988

Subject	Reference Period	Release Date
Livestock Report	April 1, 1988	April 27, 1988
Longitudinal Database on Businesses in the Canadian Economy	1978 to 1984	April 22, 1988
Lubricating Oil and Grease Industry	1986 Census Manufactures	April 29, 1988
Meats, Stocks of Frozen	April 1988	April 22, 1988
Milk Powder, Instant Skim	February 1988	April 13, 1988
Mineral Wool	March 1988	April 26, 1988
Motor Vehicle Sales, New	February 1988	April 11, 1988
Natural Gas	January 1988	April 25, 1988
Natural Gas, Sales	February 1988	April 19, 1988
Non-residential Construction Building		
Material Price Index	February 1988	April 7, 1988
Nursing in Canada	1986	April 22, 1988
Oil Lubricating, Grease Industry	1986 Census Manufactures	April 29, 1988
Oil Pipeline Transport	January 1988	April 21, 1988
Oil, Crude	January 1988	April 25, 1988
Oils	January 1988	April 13, 1988
	February 1988	April 14, 1988
Orders in Manufacturing Industries	February 1988	April 21, 1988
Outstanding Securities with Non-residents, Transactions	February 1988	April 28, 1988
Particleboard	February 1988	April 11, 1988
Passenger Bus Statistics	February 1988	April 12, 1988
Pension Plans in Canada	1986	April 7, 1988
Petroleum Products, Refined Sales	March 1988	April 29, 1988
Phonograph Records	February 1988	April 13, 1988
Pipe, Steel	February 1988	April 11, 1988
Plywood, Construction Type	February 1988	April 21, 1988
Poultry Products, Stocks of Frozen	April 1988	April 19, 1988
Powder, Instant Skim Milk	February 1988	April 13, 1988
Power Statistics, Electric	February 1988	April 28, 1988
Pre-recorded Tapes	February 1988	April 13, 1988
Private Trucking	1986	April 8, 1988
Process Cheese	February 1988	April 13, 1988
	March 1988	April 29, 1988
Productivity Measures, Aggregate	1987	April 25, 1988
Public Libraries	1986	April 28, 1988
Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics	February 1988	April 8, 1988
Railway Carloadings	February 1988	April 5, 1988
	Seven-day Period Ending March 21, 1988	April 5, 1988
	10-day Period Ending March 31, 1988	April 14, 1988
	Seven-day Period Ending April 7, 1988	April 21, 1988
	Seven Day Period Ending April 14, 1988	April 29, 1988

Subject	Reference Period	Release Date
Real Gross Domestic Product at Factor		
Cost by Industry	February 1988	April 28, 1988
Records, Phonograph	February 1988	April 13, 1988
Red Meats, Apparent Per Capita		
Consumption	April 5, 1988	April 22, 1988
Refined Petroleum Products, Sales	March 1988	April 29, 1988
Regional Distribution of Federal		
Extramural Expenditures on Science		
and Technology	1986-87	April 7, 1988
Residential Care Facilities	1985-86	April 8, 1988
Residential Construction Building		
Material Price Index	February 1988	April 7, 1988
Residue, Wood	February 1988	April 8, 1988
Resins, Synthetic	February 1988	April 11, 1988
Restaurants	February 1988	April 15, 1988
Retail Trade	February 1988	April 21, 1988
Rigid Insulating Board	March 1988	April 29, 1988
Roofing, Asphalt	February 1988	April 6, 1988
Sawmills East of the Rockies	February 1988	April 26, 1988
Sawmills in British Columbia	January 1988	April 14, 1988
Science and Technology, Federal		
Expenditures	April 1, 1988	April 27, 1988
Science and Technology, Regional		
Distribution of Federal Extramural		
Expenditures	1986-87	April 7, 1988
Securities, Outstanding Transactions		
with Non-residents	February 1988	April 28, 1988
Sheet, High Pressure Decorative		
Laminate	First Quarter 1988	April 21, 1988
Shipments in Manufacturing Industries	February 1988	April 21, 1988
Skim Milk Powder, Instant	February 1988	April 13, 1988
Social Trends, Canadian	Spring 1988	April 13, 1988
Steel Exports	March 1988	April 15, 1988
Steel Ingots	February 1988	April 12, 1988
	Week Ending March 26, 1988	April 5, 1988
	Week Ending April 2, 1988	April 7, 1988
	Week Ending April 9, 1988	April 13, 1988
	Week Ending April 16, 1988	April 21, 1988
	Week Ending April 23, 1988	April 27, 1988
Steel Pipe and Tubing	February 1988	April 11, 1988
Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products	January 1988	April 26, 1988
Steel, Rolled	February 1988	April 13, 1988
Store Stocks, Chain	February 1988	April 29, 1988
Sugar Sales	March 1988	April 14, 1988



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Subject	Reference Period	Release Date
Tapes, Pre-recorded	February 1988	April 13, 1988
Taverns	February 1988	April 15, 1988
Taxation Statistics, Corporation	1986	April 18, 1988
Tobacco Products	March 1988	April 21, 1988
Trade, Preliminary Statement of Canadian International	February 1988	April 19, 1988
Trade, Wholesale	February 1988	April 22, 1988
Transactions in Outstanding Securities with Non-residents	February 1988	April 28, 1988
Travel Between Canada and Other Countries	February 1988	April 5, 1988
Trucking, Private	1986	April 8, 1988
Tubing, Steel	February 1988	April 11, 1988
Unemployment Insurance Statistics	February 1988	April 27, 1988
Union Wage Rate Index, Construction	March 1988	April 21, 1988
Urban Transit Statistics	February 1988	April 12, 1988
Utilities Construction Price Indexes, Electric	1987	April 29, 1988
Vehicle Sales, New Motor	February 1988	April 11, 1988
Waferboard	February 1988	April 11, 1988
Wage Rate Index, Construction Union	March 1988	April 21, 1988
Wholesale Trade	February 1988	April 22, 1988
Wire, Steel and Specified Wire Products	January 1988	April 26, 1988
Wood Residue Statistics	February 1988	April 8, 1988
Wool, Mineral	March 1988	April 26, 1988
	February 1988	April 5, 1988
Work Injuries in Canada	1982-86	April 21, 1988
Wrappers, Corrugated	February 1988	April 14, 1988
	March 1988	April 26, 1988