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Statistics Canada

Wednesday, February 22, 1989

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Major Releases

The Composite Leading Indicator, November 1988

- The new version of the index rose 0.3%, in line with the recent gains in output and employment in services.

3

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, December 1988

- Both shipments and unfilled orders reached new highs in December 1988.

7

Department Store Sales and Stocks, December 1988

- Seasonally adjusted department store sales increased by 1.9% in December.

9

Unemployment Insurance Statistics, December 1988

- Unemployment insurance benefits for 1988 totalled \$10,852 million, up 3.9% from 1987.

11

Sales of Natural Gas, December 1988

- Sales of natural gas for December 1988 totalled 5 958.5 million cubic metres, up 8.8% from a year earlier.

14

Machinery and Equipment Price Indexes, Fourth Quarter 1988

- A fourth quarter 1988 increase of 1.2% brings the year-over-year change to an increase of 0.4%, the first such increase since the first quarter of 1987.

15

Non-residential Construction Output Price Index, Fourth Quarter 1988

- Non-residential construction prices rose 1.7% across Canada in the fourth quarter of 1988.

17

(continued on next page)



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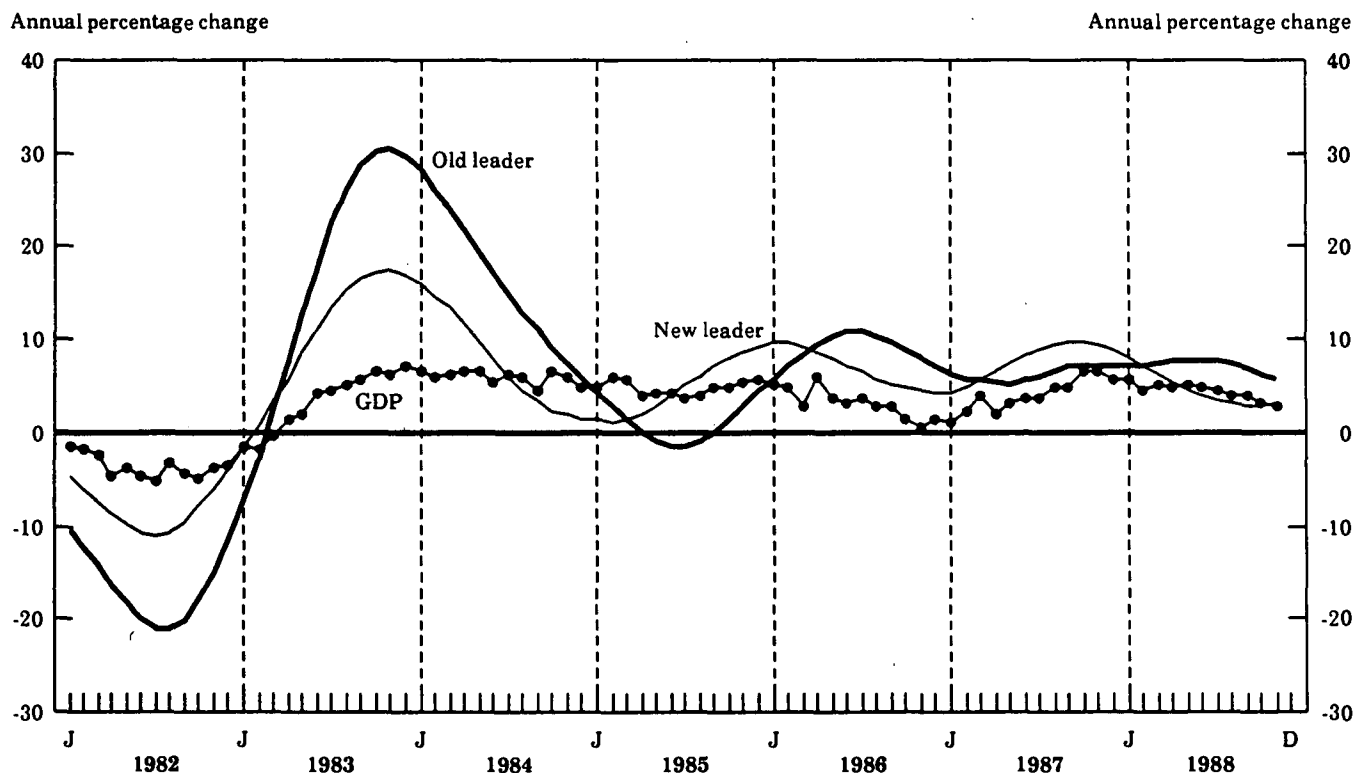
Data Availability Announcements

Chain Store Stocks, December 1988	18
Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns, December 1988	18
Mineral Wool, January 1989	18
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers, January 1989	18
Stocks of Frozen Meats, February 1, 1989	19
Processed Broccoli, 1988	19
Processed Corn, 1988	19
Processed Cauliflower, 1988	19

Publications Released	20
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Major Releases

Business Cycle Indicators in Canada



The Composite Leading Indicator

November 1988

Highlights

- In November, the new version of the index rose by 0.3%, in line with the recent gains in output and employment in services. By contrast, the original version fell by 0.2%, reflecting the weakness of industrial production.
- A major source of growth in the new composite index was a solid 0.8% gain in employment in business and personal services. (This component replaces the old proxy of profit margins, which accounted for all of the drop in the original index.) The strong growth of employment in business and personal services, many of which reflect the first stages of large projects, together

Note to Users:

Beginning with November 1988, Statistics Canada will publish a revised version of its system of leading indicators in place of the original version, which began in 1981. The major changes are to replace two of the components to increase coverage of services. This serves to make the composite index more relevant to total GDP, whereas the original index was more related to industrial production. There were also a number of technical changes, including a rebasing of the index to 1981 = 100, an update of the standardization factors, and changes to the components that will increase the timely publication of the index by up to a week.

For a detailed discussion of the new leading indicators - what they are, why they lead, and how they should be interpreted - see the feature article in the February *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010), available February 23.

(continued on next page)

with gains in orders for capital goods, suggests that growth in business investment will continue.

- The new house spending index accelerated to 0.8% growth. House sales grew by 1.5% in November. This series, along with housing starts, replaces the original version of the residential construction index, which fell 0.3% due to building permits. House sales by real estate agencies have accounted for one-quarter of the growth of services output to date this year.
- The indicators related to personal spending slowed slightly in November, although their growth remains in line with the upward trend of employment and incomes. Furniture and appliances sales grew by 0.3%, while sales of other durable goods rose by 0.2%.

- The U.S. leading indicator, a measure of export demand, edged up by 0.1% in November. There was a pick-up in new orders for consumer goods and residential building permits, however, a precursor of further gains in December.
- The financial markets indicators remained mixed in November: the real money supply (M1) turned down, while the stock market price index slowed to a 0.3% gain.

(see table on next page)

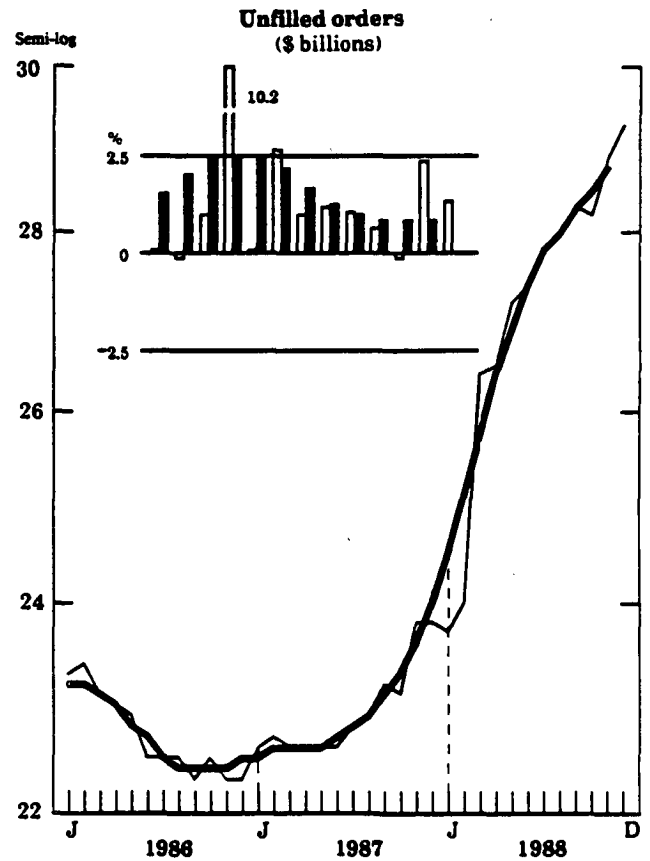
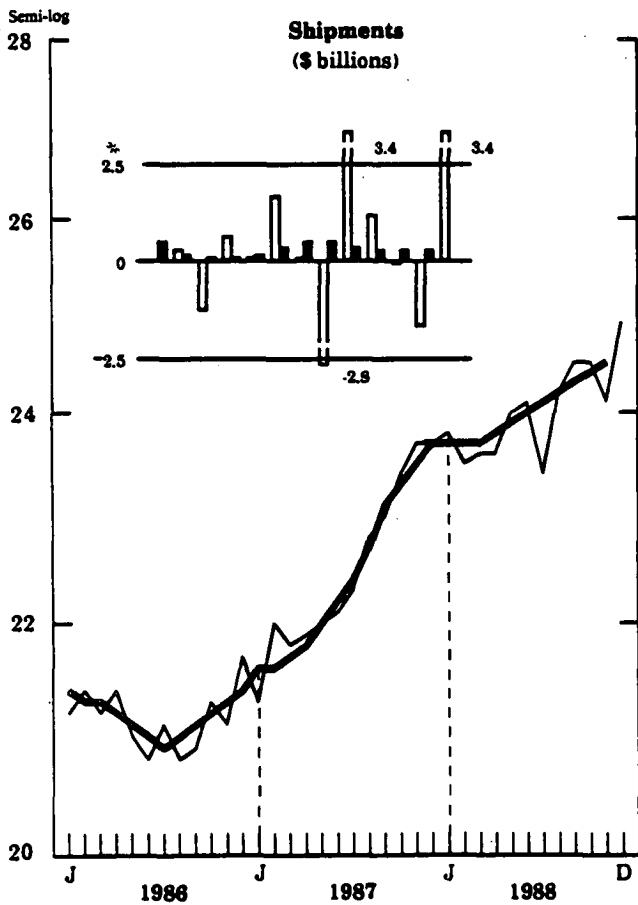
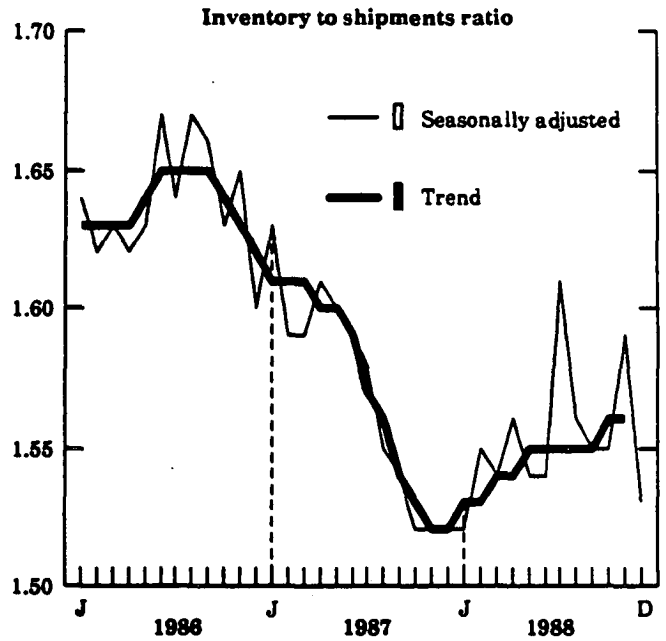
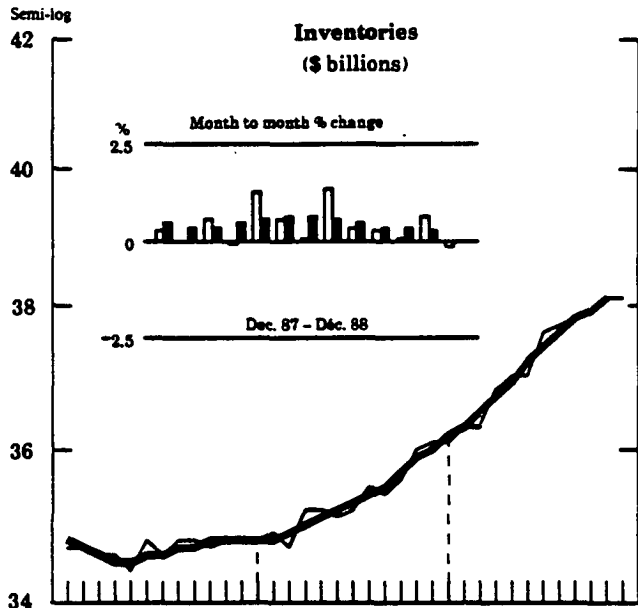
Available on CANSIM: matrix 191 contains the new version of leading indicators (D99947 to D99968). The series begins retroactive to 1952. Matrix 161 will be terminated with the November 1988 data.

For more information on this release, contact F. Ray-Mayrand (613-951-3627), International and Finance Economics Division.

Composite Leading Indicator 1981 = 100
(Smoothed)

	Composite		Toronto Stock Index	Money Supply (M1)	U.S. Leading Index	Services Employ- ment
	Smoothed	Non-smoothed				
1987						
1	127.3	129.1	3,085.0	24,232.0	183.2	1,527.5
2	128.5	132.5	3,165.7	24,501.9	184.2	1,535.8
3	129.8	133.3	3,290.1	24,727.4	185.3	1,547.1
4	131.2	133.9	3,420.3	25,004.5	186.3	1,557.0
5	132.4	134.5	3,532.2	25,304.3	187.1	1,566.8
6	133.7	136.7	3,625.6	25,590.2	188.1	1,573.8
7	134.8	136.1	3,734.8	25,781.1	189.0	1,576.4
8	135.8	137.0	3,833.5	25,898.6	189.9	1,577.0
9	136.6	137.9	3,900.6	25,965.8	190.7	1,579.4
10	137.1	136.9	3,821.4	26,029.9	191.4	1,580.1
11	137.3	136.4	3,661.7	26,040.8	191.6	1,579.8
12	137.5	137.4	3,500.8	25,963.1	191.6	1,582.6
1988						
1	137.5	137.4	3,346.9	25,896.6	191.4	1,590.2
2	137.6	137.7	3,237.7	25,833.6	191.3	1,601.3
3	137.9	139.2	3,183.9	25,761.1	191.3	1,610.1
4	138.2	139.2	3,173.4	25,668.9	191.4	1,619.1
5	138.5	139.4	3,177.4	25,609.0	191.4	1,627.7
6	139.0	140.6	3,215.3	25,598.3	191.8	1,634.4
7	139.4	139.5	3,259.1	25,634.1	192.1	1,640.5
8	139.9	141.8	3,288.4	25,692.7	192.4	1,649.7
9	140.5	142.3	3,304.9	25,763.8	192.7	1,662.4
10	141.1	142.3	3,326.8	25,798.5	192.9	1,676.3
11	141.6	142.0	3,335.3	25,773.0	193.1	1,690.5
	Ratio of Shipments to Stocks	Durable Goods New Orders	Average Workweek	Durable Goods Sales	Furn. & Appliance Sales	Housing Index
1987						
1	1.3	8,619.7	38.7	39,640.3	10,736.6	135.6
2	1.4	8,719.2	38.7	39,715.2	10,812.6	137.3
3	1.4	8,797.8	38.7	39,995.4	10,860.7	140.5
4	1.4	8,864.0	38.7	40,570.3	10,935.1	142.7
5	1.4	8,904.4	38.7	41,122.7	11,040.5	143.3
6	1.4	8,935.9	38.8	41,856.6	11,206.2	142.9
7	1.4	8,965.5	38.8	42,499.0	11,386.7	142.7
8	1.4	9,016.4	38.8	43,090.9	11,527.1	142.9
9	1.4	9,116.1	38.8	43,565.6	11,654.2	142.4
10	1.4	9,226.4	38.8	44,043.9	11,756.9	142.3
11	1.5	9,395.2	38.8	44,463.8	11,838.9	141.7
12	1.5	9,548.6	38.8	44,906.7	11,915.4	140.1
1988						
1	1.5	9,623.5	38.8	45,230.2	11,953.6	137.7
2	1.5	9,689.7	38.8	45,232.7	11,979.1	135.8
3	1.5	9,956.2	38.7	45,330.9	12,020.8	135.6
4	1.5	10,086.3	38.7	45,391.7	12,072.8	137.0
5	1.5	10,201.8	38.7	45,579.2	12,109.5	139.4
6	1.5	10,274.5	38.7	45,677.9	12,205.7	141.2
7	1.5	10,223.8	38.7	45,829.0	12,279.6	142.0
8	1.5	10,180.9	38.7	46,017.8	12,338.6	144.1
9	1.4	10,156.6	38.7	46,302.6	12,398.2	145.0
10	1.4	10,118.5	38.8	46,511.7	12,442.8	145.8
11	1.4	10,076.1	38.8	46,589.2	12,475.5	147.0

Manufacturers' Inventories, Shipments and Unfilled Orders, 1986-1988



Monthly Survey of Manufacturing December 1988

(Seasonally Adjusted)

Both shipments and unfilled orders reached new highs in December 1988. Shipments rebounded following two consecutive decreases and unfilled orders continued on a steady upward trend.

Highlights

- Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian manufacturers' **shipments** increased by 3.4% to \$24.9 billion in December 1988, following two consecutive decreases. The rate of growth in the short term trend stabilized at 0.3% between September and November, after experiencing a declining trend between June and September 1988. Increases were recorded in 18 of the 22 major groups in December. Transportation equipment industries, notably aircraft and parts, and primary metals industries accounted for half of the increase.
- December **inventories** registered a slight decrease of 0.2% to a level of \$38.1 billion. Increases in the trend for inventories continued to slow, from 0.7% a month in May and June 1988 to 0.3% in November. Transportation equipment and refined petroleum and coal industries were the major contributors to the decrease in December inventories.
- As a result of the large increase in shipments and the decline in inventories, the **inventories to shipments ratio** for December dropped to 1.53:1 from a level of 1.59:1 in November. The December ratio almost matches the record lows of 1.52:1 registered from October 1987 to January 1988. The trend for the ratio remained stable at 1.56:1 in November.
- **Unfilled orders** increased 1.4% in December to reach a record high of \$29.3 billion. The main contributors to the December increase were fabricated metal products and electrical and electronic products industries. Growth in the trend for unfilled orders remained steady at 0.9% a month from September to November 1988.
- **New orders** were up 2.2% to \$25.3 billion following an increase of 1.4% in November.

Note to Users:

Trend. A seasonally adjusted series still shows the effects of irregular influences and special circumstances and these can mask the trend. The short term trend is a measure which depicts the underlying direction in the seasonally adjusted series. It is calculated by averaging across months, thus balancing out the effects of irregular influences. The result is a smoother and more stable series. Since a moving average cannot accurately represent the latest month in a time series, the graphs showing the change in the trend stop at the second last month.

Inventories referred to in the text are inventories owned, which exclude inventories for which manufacturers have received payment, but which they are still holding. This occurs for industries where long-term projects are arranged and progress payments are received according to the work done. In these cases, shipments data reflect progress payments rather than deliveries. At the all-industry level, inventory owned accounts for the largest part of inventory held.

(Unadjusted)

- Manufacturers' shipments in December 1988 were estimated at \$22.8 billion, 2.2% higher than the December 1987 level.
- Cumulative shipments for 1988 were estimated at \$288.5 billion, 6.9% higher than the value in 1987.

(see table on next page)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9580.

For more information, consult the December 1988 issue of *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001, \$16.50/\$165).

Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available on request.

For further information, please contact Claude Robillard (613-951-3508) or the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section (613-951-9832), Industry Division.

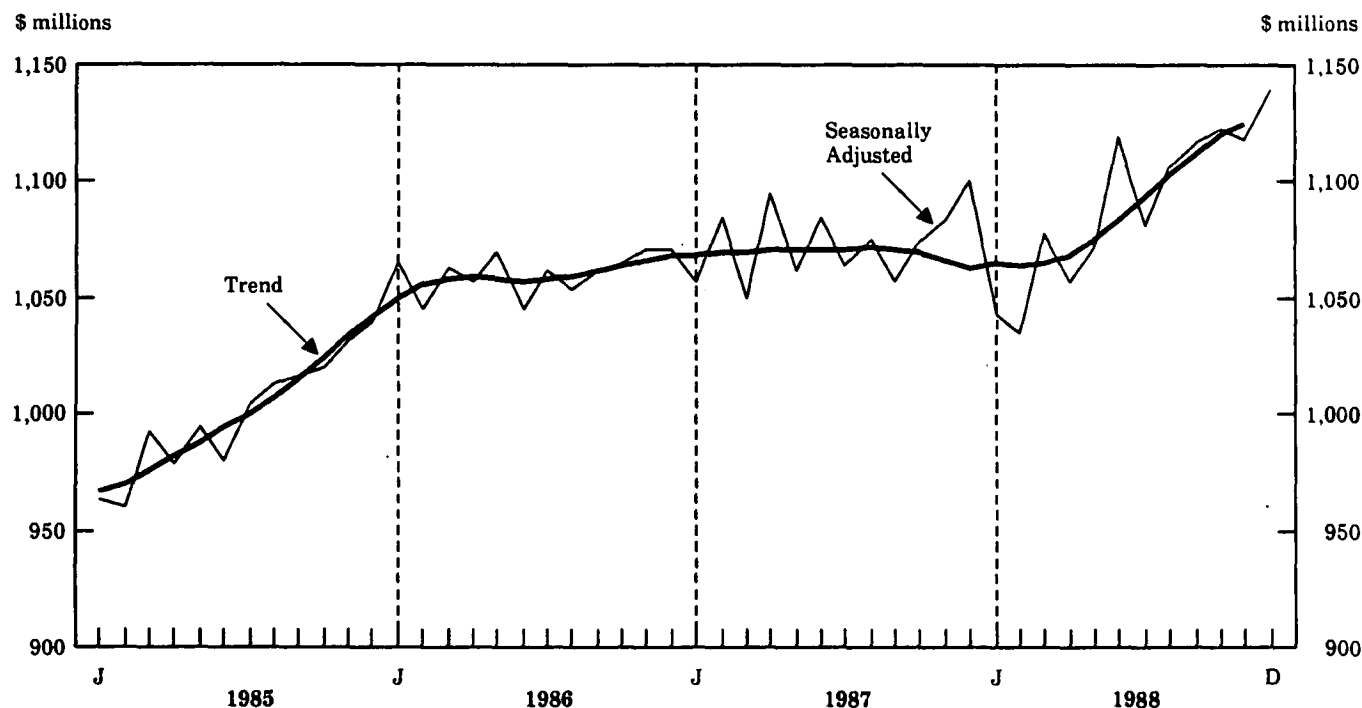
Estimated Value of Shipments, Inventories and Orders in all Manufacturing Industries
(millions of dollars)

	Nov. 1987	Dec. 1987	Sept. 1988 ^r	Oct. 1988 ^r	Nov. 1988 ^r	Dec. 1988 ^p
(Seasonally Adjusted)						
Shipments	23,696	23,705	24,491	24,456	24,051	24,858
New Orders	24,340	23,722	24,684	24,391	24,723	25,261
Unfilled Orders	23,775	23,792	28,287	28,221	28,894	29,297
Inventories	36,011	36,127	37,852	37,880	38,142	38,061
Ratio of Inventories to Shipments	1.52	1.52	1.55	1.55	1.59	1.53
(Unadjusted)						
Shipments	23,970	22,302	25,585	25,075	24,903	22,800
New Orders	24,420	22,048	25,668	24,882	25,378	22,917
Unfilled Orders	23,515	23,260	28,349	28,156	28,631	28,748
Inventories	35,696	35,564	37,443	37,563	37,829	37,479

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

Department Store Sales, by Month, 1985-1988 (Seasonally Adjusted)



Department Store Sales and Stocks

December 1988

Highlights

(Seasonally Adjusted)

- Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, department store sales in December 1988 totalled \$1,139 million, an increase of 1.9% from the previous month's revised total of \$1,118 million.
- The increase in department store sales in December extended the trend of generally rising sales observed since March 1988. During the last three months, department store sales increased on average by 0.7% on a monthly basis.

- Department store stocks (at selling value) totalled \$4,584 million at the end of December 1988, a decrease of 1.2% from the November 1988 revised value of \$4,639 million. This decline followed a gain of 1.3% in November.

- The ratio of inventories to sales stood at 4.02:1 in December, a decrease from the average ratio of 4.14:1 observed in the three previous months.

(Unadjusted)

- Department stores in Canada reported sales totalling \$2,185 million in December 1988, up 7.5% over the revised December 1987 level of \$2,031 million.

(see table on next page)

- All provinces reported higher sales in December 1988 compared to the corresponding month in 1987. Sales were also higher in the 10 metropolitan areas covered by the survey.
- Department store stocks at month-end totalled \$4,185 million, an increase of 4.0% over the level reached in December 1987.

Annual 1988

(Preliminary Estimates)

- Cumulative sales for the 12 months of 1988 totalled \$13,271 million, an increase of 4.1% (after adjustment for the sale of Woodward Stores Ltd.'s food division) over the corresponding period in 1987 and up over the 3.7% growth recorded in 1987.
- The growth in 1988 was broadly based as 27 of the 40 departments covered by the survey recorded higher sales. On a provincial basis, adjusted for structural changes, eight provinces posted increases in 1988 over 1987. Decreases were recorded in Manitoba (-4.4%) and Saskatchewan (-0.1%).
- Sales by major department stores totalled \$7,774 million in 1988 while junior department stores had sales of \$5,497 million.
- The market share held by major department stores has gradually declined over the last seven years, reaching a low of 58.6% in 1988.

Note to Users:

Trading days have a significant impact on department store sales. Users should therefore use the year-over-year comparisons with caution. Adjusted for trading day differences, department store sales increased 4.4% over December 1987.

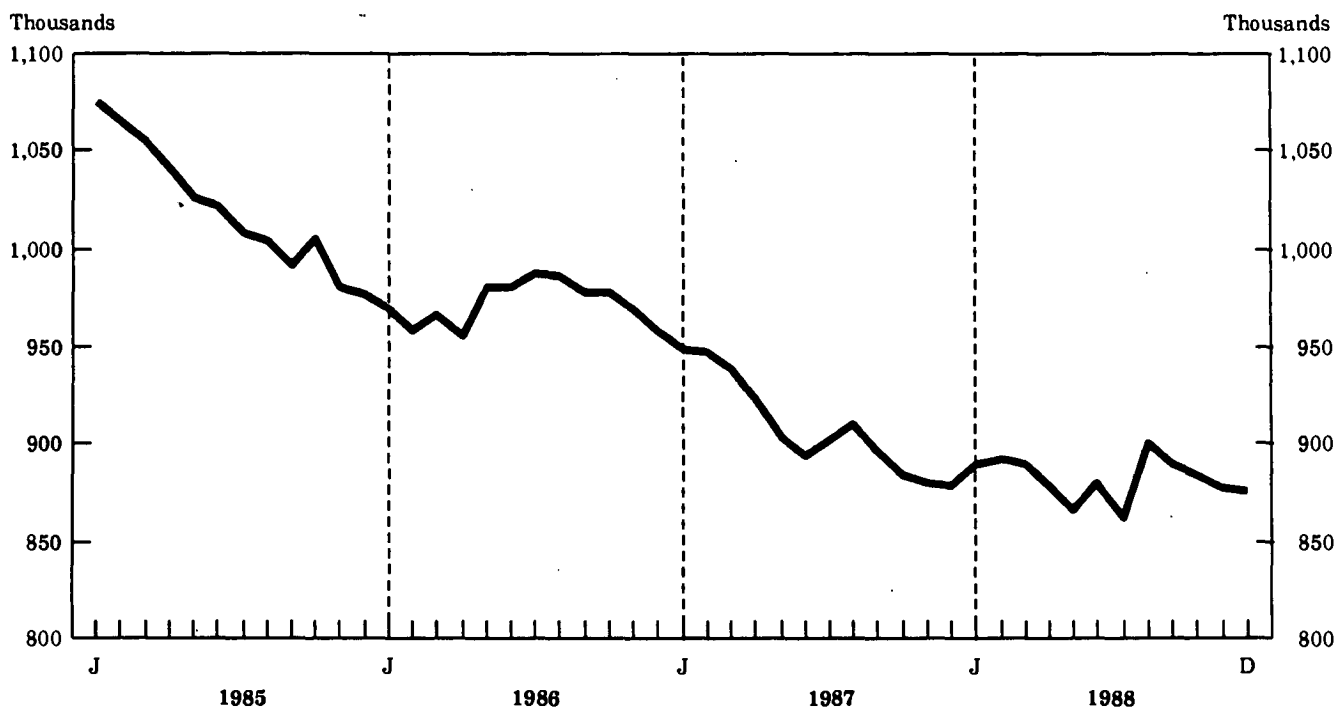
The short-term trend provides a clearer picture of the direction and rate of change in department store sales. It is calculated by the X-11 ARIMA seasonal adjustment program. Essentially, the calculation involves a 13-term Henderson moving average which smooths irregular fluctuations in the seasonally adjusted data. The trend for the last month is however not shown in the chart since it frequently changes significantly with the addition of succeeding months of data.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 112.

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

For more information on this release, contact Roger Laplante (613-951-3552) or David Roeske (613-951-9236), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

Number of Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits, 1985-1988 (Seasonally Adjusted)



Unemployment Insurance Statistics December 1988

(Seasonally Adjusted)

- For the week ending December 10, 1988, preliminary estimates show that the number of beneficiaries¹ receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits stood at 875,000, virtually the same number as was recorded a month ago. This level has remained generally unchanged for the past year.
- Between November and December 1988, the number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits, adjusted for seasonal variations, decreased 2.7% in Ontario, 2.2% in New Brunswick, and 2.1% in the Yukon. Increases were observed in the Northwest Territories

(4.7%), Alberta (3.0%), Prince Edward Island (2.3%), Saskatchewan (1.5%), and Nova Scotia (1.0%). There were only small changes in the other provinces.

- In December 1988, total benefit payments, adjusted for seasonal variations and the number of working days, increased 7.3% from the preceding month to \$989 million. For the same period, the number of benefit weeks increased 9.9% to 4.9 million.

(Unadjusted)

- In December 1988, the total number of beneficiaries¹ (including all persons qualifying for regular and special unemployment insurance benefits) stood at 1,066,000, virtually unchanged from the same month a year ago. For the same period, the number of male beneficiaries decreased 1.3% to 575,000, whereas the number of female beneficiaries increased 1.6% to 491,000.

(continued on next page)

¹ The number of beneficiaries represents a count of persons who qualified for unemployment insurance benefits during a specific week of the reference month.

- Benefits paid during December 1988 totalled \$978 million², up 9.1% from December 1987. For 1988, benefit payments amounted to \$10,852 million, an advance of 3.9% over 1987. The cumulative increase in the benefit payments resulted from a 6.6% advance in the average weekly benefit to \$202.75, which was partially offset by a 2.5% decrease in the number of benefit weeks to 53.5 million.
- A total of 325,000 claims² (applications) for unemployment insurance benefits were received in December 1988, down 10.3% from the same month a year ago. The number of claims received during 1988 totalled 3,231,000, practically unchanged from 1987.

² Benefits paid, number of benefit weeks, and number of claims received relate to a complete calendar month. It should be noted that these data are affected by the number of working days available during the reference month to process claims and to pay benefits. In making short-term comparisons it is not uncommon to observe different trends between these data and the number of beneficiaries.

(see table on next page)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700-5717, 5735, and 5736. The last two matrices contain monthly data, starting in January 1984, on beneficiaries by sex and Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) or Census Agglomeration (CA).

Data for the months of October, November, and December 1988 will be published in the December 1988 issue of *Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-001, \$13/\$130), available in March.

Unpublished beneficiaries data are also available on request, including statistics for small areas as defined by data users.

For special tabulations or further information contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-4045) or Horst Stiebert (613-951-4044), Labour Division.

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

	December 1988	November 1988	October 1988	December 1987	% change from	
					Dec. 88/ Nov. 88	Nov. 88/ Oct. 88
(Seasonally Adjusted)						
Benefits						
Amount paid (\$000)	988,934	922,038	894,741	854,363	7.3	3.1
Weeks of benefit (000)	4,854	4,416	4,461	4,531	9.9	- 1.0
Beneficiaries – Regular benefit (000)	875 ^p	878 ^p	883 ^r	878 ^r	-0.2	- 0.7
					% change from Dec 88 /Dec 87	
(Unadjusted)						
Benefits						
Amount paid (\$000)	978,019	853,063	733,950	896,043		9.1
Weeks of benefit (000)	4,593	4,140	3,632	4,509		1.9
Average weekly benefit (\$)	212.92	206.04	202.05	198.70		7.2
Claims received (000)	325	371	294	362		-10.3
Beneficiaries¹ (000)						
Total	1066 ^p	932 ^p	860 ^r	1066 ^r		0.0
Regular benefits	917 ^p	814 ^p	740 ^r	921 ^r		- 0.5
January-December					% change	
	1988		1987		1988/1987	
Benefits						
Amount paid (\$000)	10,852,400		10,440,709			3.9
Weeks of benefit (000)	53,527		54,875			- 2.5
Average weekly benefit (\$)	202.75		190.26			6.6
Claims received (000)	3,231		3,221			0.3
Beneficiaries						
Year-to-date average ¹ (000)	1,013 ^p		1,033 ^r			- 2.0

¹ The beneficiaries include all claimants who receive benefits through the computer pay system. Excluded are year-round fishermen, a few seasonal fishermen and a small number of work sharing and job creation claimants who are paid through the manual pay system.

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

Sales of Natural Gas

December 1988 (Preliminary Data)

Highlights

- Sales of natural gas (including direct sales) in Canada during December 1988 totalled 5 958.5 million cubic metres, an 8.8% increase from the level recorded the previous year.
- On the basis of rate structure information, sales in December 1988 were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from December 1987 in brackets: residential sales, 1 698.6 million cubic metres (+7.8%); commercial sales, 1 444.3 million cubic metres (+8.8%) and industrial sales (including direct sales) 2 815.5 million cubic metres (+9.4%).

- For 1988, sales of natural gas amounted to 52 603.2 million cubic metres, a 9.4% increase from the 1987 level.

- On the basis of rate structure information, 1988 sales were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from 1987 in brackets: residential sales, 12 733.7 million cubic metres (+11.1%); commercial sales, 10 755.1 million cubic metres (+10.6%) and industrial sales (including direct sales) 29 114.4 million cubic metres (+8.2%).

The December 1988 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$11.50/\$115) will be available the third week of March. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information on this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Sales of Natural Gas - Preliminary Data December 1988

	Rate structure				
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct	Total
	thousands of cubic metres				
New Brunswick	-	-	-	-	-
Quebec	74 556	154 654	318 495	4 300	552 005
Ontario	847 679	621 371	883 326	158 433	2 510 809
Manitoba	90 180	84 559	14 797	10 000	199 536
Saskatchewan	130 000	105 000	51 000	65 000	351 000
Alberta	358 833	328 561	1 043 573	-	1 730 967
British Columbia	197 361	150 196	145 273	121 316	614 146
December 1988 - Canada	1 698 609	1 444 341	2 456 464	359 049	5 958 463
December 1987 - Canada	1 576 416	1 327 101	2 257 963	316 351	5 477 831
% change	7.8	8.8	9.4		8.8
Year to date 1988 - Canada	12 733 737	10 755 063	25 575 791	3 538 599	52 603 190
Year to date 1987 - Canada	11 462 908	9 728 176	24 780 448	2 125 687	48 097 219
% change	11.1	10.6	8.2		9.4

- Nil or zero.

Note: Revised figures will be available in the "Gas Utilities" publication (Catalogue # 55-002) as well as on CANSIM.

Machinery and Equipment Price Indexes

Fourth Quarter 1988

- The Machinery and Equipment Price Index by industry of purchase (1971=100, MEPI) reached a preliminary level of 311.4 in the fourth quarter of 1988, up 1.2% from its revised third quarter level. This is the second consecutive quarterly increase this year.
- The domestic and imported components rose 0.9% and 1.6% respectively in the latest quarter. This is the first increase for the imported component since the fourth quarter of 1987.
- On a year-over-year basis, the total index was up 0.4% which was the first increase in the year-over-year rate since the first quarter of 1987.
- Prices for domestically produced machinery and equipment rose 3.1% on a year-over-year basis, but imported goods declined 2.0% under the influence of the Canadian dollar, which has strengthened against the U.S. dollar for the last two years.

- During the last quarter, with the exception of the machinery and equipment bought by the air transport sector, down 0.1%, all industries showed index increases. The agriculture sector led the way with an increase of 3.8% (mainly reflecting higher prices for light trucks), while the transportation sector showed the lowest average industry movement with a 0.4% increase influenced by small increases for the telephones (0.2%) and the broadcasting (0.1%) industries and the small drop in air transport (-0.1%).

(see table on next page)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4000, 4002 and 4027.

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

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

Machinery and Equipment Price Indexes
 (1971 = 100)

	Relative Importance ¹	4th Q. 1988 *	3rd Q. 1988 *	Percent Change	
				4th Q.1988/ 3d Q.1988	4th Q.1988/ 4th Q.1987
Machinery and Equipment Price Index:	100.0	311.4	307.6	1.2	0.4
SIC Divisions:					
1. Agriculture	10.3	314.9	303.5	3.8	3.0
2. Forestry	0.7	326.9	325.0	0.6	0.4
3. Fishing	0.6	338.7	336.8	0.6	2.3
4. Mines, Quarries and Oil Wells	6.5	355.0	352.4	0.7	-0.5
5. Manufacturing	30.4	344.8	340.9	1.1	0.6
6. Construction	4.1	291.4	289.3	0.7	-0.9
7. Transportation, Communication, Storage and Utilities	25.5	298.1	296.9	0.4	-0.3
8. Trade	4.8	286.1	280.1	2.1	0.7
9. Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1.5	252.6	248.2	1.8	1.9
10. Community, Business and Personal Services	9.4	242.7	239.1	1.5	0.2
11. Public Administration	6.2	297.3	294.8	0.8	-0.3

* These indexes are preliminary.

¹ Division weights are based on 1971 value of capitalized expenditures on new machinery and equipment by industry (Survey of Private and Public Investment in Canada, 1971.)

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Non-Residential Construction Output Price Index

Fourth Quarter 1988

- Non-residential construction prices rose 1.7% across Canada in the fourth quarter of 1988. The same rate of increase occurred in the first and third quarters of 1988, illustrating the very steady pattern over the past year. The fourth quarter price index at 131.1 (based on 1981=100) was 7.6% over the level of one year ago.
- Prices in Vancouver jumped 2.6% in the quarter, duplicating the rate of change from the second to the third quarter and standing 7.9% over the fourth quarter of 1987.
- In Toronto, the increase of 1.9% this quarter was down from the 3.0% registered in the second quarter. Over the year, Toronto rose 9.0% to an index level of 159.1. Ottawa was the next highest city with a rise of 8.0% and an index level of 141.8.

- In Halifax, Calgary and Edmonton prices rose more slowly than in central Canada at 0.9%, 0.4% and 0.5% to indexes of 127.1, 99.2 and 97.0 respectively, continuing their pattern of moderate increases in recent years.
- Increases in the prices of copper significantly affected the price indexes of electrical work (copper wiring) and to a lesser extent mechanical work (copper piping).

Available on CANSIM: Matrices 414 and 415.

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

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

Output Price Indexes of Non-residential Construction

Fourth Quarter 1988
(1981=100)

	Canada and Seven Cities							
	Halifax	Montreal	Ottawa	Toronto	Calgary	Edmonton	Vancouver	Canada
Quarterly Indexes								
1987 Q4	123.6	133.7	131.3	145.9	95.0	95.6	111.4	121.8
1988 Q1	124.3	135.5	133.0	149.0	96.4	95.8	113.3	123.9
1988 Q2	125.0	138.0	136.5	153.4	97.6	95.9	114.1	126.8
1988 Q3	126.0 ^r	139.1	139.6 ^r	156.2	98.8	96.5 ^r	117.1	128.9 ^r
1988 Q4	127.1	141.2	141.8	159.1	99.2	97.0	120.2	131.1
Percentage Change								
Q2'88/Q1'88	0.6	1.8	2.6	3.0	1.2	0.1	0.7	2.3
Q3'88/Q2'88	0.8	0.8	2.3 ^r	1.8	1.2	0.6 ^r	2.6	1.7
Q4'88/Q3'88	0.9	1.5	1.6	1.9	0.4	0.5	2.6	1.7
Q4'88/Q4'87	2.8	5.6	8.0	9.0	4.4	1.5	7.9	7.6

^r Revised figures.

Data Availability Announcements

Chain Store Stocks

December 1988

- Retail chain store stocks totalled \$4,248 million at the end of December 1988, an increase of 0.5% over the level reached in December 1987.
- The inventories to sales ratio stood at 0.66:1 in December 1988, down from the ratio of 0.74:1 observed a year earlier and down significantly compared to the average ratio of 1.10:1 observed in the three previous months.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 194.

The December 1988 issue of *Merchandising Inventories* (63-014, \$13/\$130) will be available the third week of April. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information on this release, contact Maurice Massaad (613-951-9682), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns

December 1988

Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts totalled \$1,342.5 million for December 1988, an increase of 8.9% over the \$1,233.2 million reported for the same period of last year.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 52.

The December 1988 issue of *Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns* (63-011, \$5.50/\$55) will be available in approximately three weeks time. See "How to Order Publications."

For more information on this release, contact Services Division (613-951-3506).

Mineral Wool

January 1989

Manufacturers shipped 3 377 948 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in January 1989, down 7.9% from the 3 667 875 square metres shipped a year earlier but up 3.2% from the 3 272 325 square metres shipped the previous month.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 40 and 122 (series 32 and 33).

The January issue of *Mineral Wool including Fibrous Glass Insulation* (44-004, \$4.50/\$45) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information on this release, contact Ron Fortin (613-951-3527), Industry Division.

Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers

January 1989

Canadian domestic shipments of corrugated boxes and wrappers totalled 179 534 thousand square metres in January 1989, a decrease of 5.5% from the 190 041^r thousand square metres shipped a year earlier.

The January issue of *Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers* (36-004, \$4.50/\$45) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Stocks of Frozen Meats

February 1, 1989

Total frozen meat in cold storage as of February 1 amounted to 31 017 tonnes as compared with 30 951 tonnes last month and 27 385 tonnes a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9517-9525.

To order *Stocks of Frozen Meat Products* (\$11.50/\$115), a statistical bulletin, contact Guy Gervais (613-951-2453).

For more information on this release, contact David Burroughs (613-951-2510), Agriculture Division.

Processed Broccoli

1988

Data on processed broccoli for 1988 are now available.

The publication *Pack of Processed Broccoli* (32-023, Vol.17, No.17,\$7/\$115) will be released at a later date.

For further information, contact Brian Preston (613-951-3511), Industry Division.

Processed Corn

1988

Data on processed corn for 1988 are now available.

The publication *Pack of Processed Corn* (32-023, Vol.17, No.6,\$7/\$115) will be released at a later date.

For further information, contact Brian Preston (613-951-3511), Industry Division.

Processed Cauliflower

1988

Data on processed cauliflower for 1988 are now available.

The publication *Pack of Processed Cauliflower* (32-023, Vol.17, No.20,\$7/\$115) will be released at a later date.

For further information, contact Brian Preston (613-951-3511), Industry Division.



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The Daily, February 22, 1989

Publications Released

A Guide to the Financial Flow and National Balance Sheet Accounts

Catalogue number 13-585E

(Canada: \$36; Other Countries: \$37).

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, December 1988

Catalogue number 31-001

(Canada: \$16.50/\$165; Other Countries: \$17.50/\$175).

Building Permits, October 1988.

Catalogue number 64-001

(Canada: \$20/\$200; Other Countries: \$21/\$210).

The Labour Force, January 1989.

Catalogue number 71-001

(Canada: \$17/\$170; Other Countries: \$20.40/\$204).

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 613-951-7277.

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.

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