

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, March 9, 1989

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The popularity of microwaves and VCRs maintained strong growth in all income groups in 1988, continuing a major consumer trend of the 1980s.</li> </ul>                                    |   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Toronto index contributed significantly to increases in the Total New Housing Price Index for Canada, which was up 0.9% from a month earlier and 14.2% from a year earlier.</li> </ul> |   |
| <b>Estimates of Labour Income, December 1988</b>  | 5 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Labour income in December was 7.9% higher than a year earlier. The annual increase was 8.1% for 1988.</li> </ul>   |   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Canada total Union Wage Rate Index for construction trades rose 5.2% from a year earlier.</li> </ul>   |   |

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## Major Releases

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### Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics 1988

In the lowest 20% of households (when ranked by income<sup>1</sup>, microwave oven ownership jumped to 28.8% in 1988, from 20.7% in 1987 and 14.1% in 1986. In addition, 22.2% of these households had a VCR in 1988, up from 18.1% in 1987 and 12.0% in 1986.

In the highest 20% of households, microwave oven ownership was 74.9% in 1988, up from 64.2% in 1987 and 52.6% in 1986. At the same time, 76.5% had a VCR in 1988, compared with 68.2% in 1987 and 56.7% in 1986.

The 1988 issue of *Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics* is the latest report providing data on dwelling characteristics and household goods by 1987 household income class.

#### Highlights

- Average household income ranged from \$19,641 for one-person households (22.6% of total households) to \$43,748 for single-family households (72.5% of total households) and \$48,562 for multi-unit households (4.9% of total households).
  - For widely held household items such as telephones, radios, refrigerators and televisions, there was very little difference by income class in the proportion of households having them. For example, in the under \$10,000 income class, 93.8% of households had telephones, compared with 99.9% in the \$70,000 and over class. Comparable data for television sets were 96.3% and 98.9%, respectively.
  - For household items less widely held, there was generally a strong relationship to income. Automatic dishwashers, found in 14.5% of households with income under \$10,000, increased to 75.8% of households with \$70,000 and over. For the same income groups, freezers increased from 30.8% to 74.4%, air conditioners from 11.6% to 34.9%, and gas barbecues from 11.1% to 69.0%.
- Only 9.1% of households in the under \$10,000 income group had more than one vehicle, while 74.6% in the \$70,000 and over group owned two or more.
  - In 1988, home ownership rates ranged from 30.5%, in the less than \$10,000 income class, to 88.9%, in the \$70,000 and over class.
  - Renter households spent 17.7% of their income on rent, the same as the previous year. The comparable figure 12 years ago was 16.4%.

This report presents variations in household items and dwelling characteristics by income, province, urbanization, age of household head and household type. Tables are based on household facilities and equipment data as of the survey date (May 1988), and income data for the 1987 calendar year.

The 1988 issue of *Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics* (13-218,\$35), is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

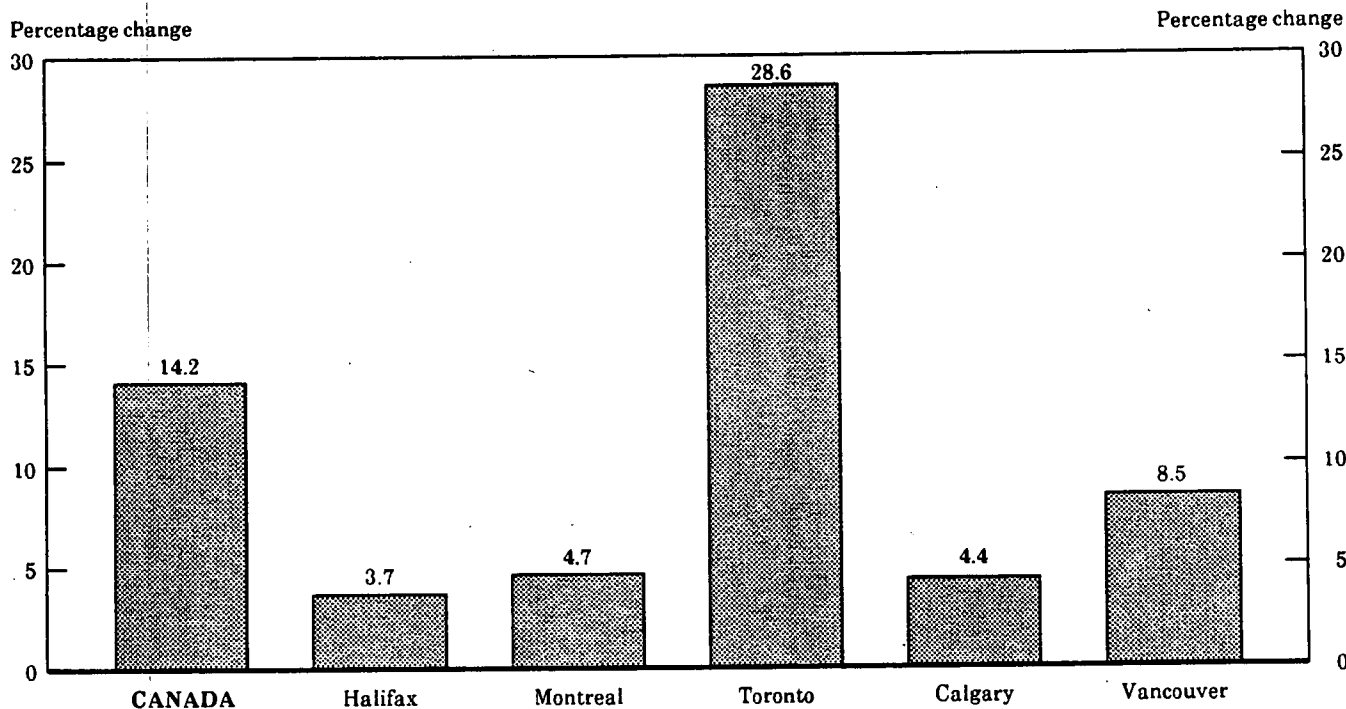
For more information on this release, contact Kevin Bishop (613-951-2211) or Penny Barclay (613-951-4634), Household Surveys Division.

A microdata tape containing 1987 household income and 1988 facilities and equipment data, along with dwelling characteristics and socio-demographic characteristics of the household, will be available shortly at a cost of \$800. Data from the Shelter Cost Survey, conducted in 1988, will later be linked with this file and the resulting expanded microdata tape will be available at a cost of \$1,000. These tapes can be ordered by contacting the Household Surveys Division (613-951-9778).

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<sup>1</sup> In 1987, the lowest 20% of households had incomes of \$15,567 or less, while the highest 20% had incomes above \$56,112.

**Percentage Change in New Housing Price Index from the Same Month of the Previous Year  
Canada and Selected Cities, January 1989**



**New Housing Price Index**

January 1989

**Highlights**

- The New Housing Price Index (1981=100) for Canada stood at 141.2 in January 1989, up 0.9% from December 1988. This index of Canadian housing contractors' selling prices now stands 14.2% higher than the year-earlier level.
- It should be noted that the city of Toronto had a very significant impact on the total index for Canada. Without the effect of Toronto, the total index would have been approximately 6.0% higher than the year-earlier level.
- Between December 1988 and January 1989, the estimated House Only index increased 0.2%, while the estimated Land Only index increased by 2.6%.
- Victoria exhibited the largest monthly increase of all cities surveyed (3.2%), due to higher labour, material and land costs, coupled with increases in demand for new houses. Toronto also registered a significant increase (1.5%), as builders continued to pass on higher land costs to buyers. A notable increase was exhibited by Vancouver (1.3%) as this market continued to improve.
- Toronto showed the largest year-over-year price increase of all cities surveyed (28.6%). Selling prices in the area continued to be influenced by strong economic conditions, higher construction costs and increased costs of serviced lots.

*(continued on page 4.)*

- Index levels continued to remain below their 1981 price reference level (100) in Edmonton, Vancouver and Victoria, despite price increases this month in all three cities.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 198.

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

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

### New Housing Price Indexes 1981 = 100

	Jan. 1989	Dec. 1988	Jan. 1988	% change	
				Jan.'89/ Dec.'88	Jan.'89/ Jan.'88
<b>Canada Total</b>	<b>141.2</b>	<b>139.9</b>	<b>123.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>14.2</b>
House only	143.3	143.0	129.9	0.2	10.3
Land only	140.8	137.2	113.0	2.6	24.6
St. John's	117.8	117.6	114.2	0.2	3.2
Halifax	135.6	135.1	130.8	0.4	3.7
Saint John-Moncton-Fredericton	137.9	137.9	133.3	-	3.5
Quebec City	163.5	162.6	151.6	0.6	7.8
Montreal	169.6	169.7	162.0	-0.1	4.7
Ottawa-Hull	150.6	150.2	141.7	0.3	6.3
Toronto	197.1	194.1	153.3	1.5	28.6
Hamilton	183.3	182.5	169.8	0.4	8.0
St. Catharines-Niagara	172.7	171.8	163.2	0.5	5.8
Kitchener-Waterloo	185.0	184.2	168.1	0.4	10.1
London	165.9	164.3	152.3	1.0	8.9
Windsor	129.2	128.6	123.0	0.5	5.0
Winnipeg	135.2	135.5	135.5	-0.2	-0.2
Regina	119.0	119.0	118.2	-	0.7
Saskatoon	112.8	113.1	111.6	-0.3	1.1
Calgary	104.2	104.2	99.8	-	4.4
Edmonton	97.0	96.8	91.7	0.2	5.8
Vancouver	85.1	84.0	78.4	1.3	8.5
Victoria	77.9	75.5	72.3	3.2	7.7

**Note:** Surveys in Sudbury and Thunder Bay are secured due to insufficient sample size. The survey has been discontinued in Prince George.

## Estimates of Labour Income

December 1988

The December 1988 preliminary estimate of labour income, which is approximately 50% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the National Income and Expenditure Accounts, reached \$26.8 billion, up 7.9% from December 1987.

On an annual basis, labour income rose by 8.1% from 1987. In the first four months of 1988, labour income showed an average year-to-year increase of 8.7%, while in the last eight months of the year the average increase was 7.9%.

### Highlights

#### (Seasonally Adjusted)

- The seasonally adjusted estimate of wages and salaries<sup>1</sup> for December 1988 rose by 0.4% over November 1988. Throughout the year, the month-to-month changes in wages and salaries have ranged between +0.3% (May, October) and +1.4% (January).
- Between November and December, increases in wages and salaries were noted in manufacturing (1.1%), federal administration (1.1%) and commercial and personal service (0.8%).
- Wages and salaries in provincial administration decreased by 0.8% between November and December.
- For all provinces, wages and salaries changed by less than 1.0% from November levels except for the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Abroad estimate which increased by 1.5%.

#### (Unadjusted)

- The December 1988 year-over-year growth rates of wages and salaries in forestry, commercial and personal service, education and related services and local administration showed increases from the previous month.

<sup>1</sup> Wages and salaries account for 90% of labour income.

- Decelerations in the rate of year-over-year growth in wages and salaries were noted in December for mines, quarries and oil wells, construction, transportation, communications and other utilities, and federal administration.
- The December 1988 year-over-year growth rates in wages and salaries increased from the previous month in Manitoba, but decelerated in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Abroad.

Users should note that the revisions have been made to labour income estimates back to January 1988.

(see table on page 6.)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1791 and 1792.

The October-December 1988 issue of *Estimates of Labour Income* (72-005, \$17.25/\$69) will be available in May. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Georgette Gauthier (613-951-4051), Labour Income Section, Labour Division.

# Wages and Salaries and Supplementary Labour Income (millions of dollars)

	December 1988 <sup>p</sup>	November 1988 <sup>r</sup>	October 1988 <sup>f</sup>	December 1987
(Unadjusted)				
Agriculture, fishing and trapping	153.7	173.4	216.5	157.9
Forestry	160.1	183.3	192.4	145.9
Mines, quarries and oil wells	596.3	604.8	607.1	551.8
Manufacturing industries	5,093.6	5,080.9	5,123.4	4,713.0
Construction industry	1,419.8	1,635.6	1,773.4	1,267.1
Transportation, communications and other utilities	2,349.8	2,395.1	2,341.0	2,205.8
Trade	3,446.7	3,365.0	3,329.2	3,193.9
Finance, insurance and real estate	1,967.7	1,982.1	1,985.1	1,805.1
Commercial and personal service	3,279.5	3,315.3	3,351.3	3,014.4
Education and related services	2,110.7	2,154.4	2,122.0	1,955.1
Health and welfare services	1,657.7	1,653.4	1,632.6	1,551.0
Federal administration and other government offices	781.0	771.6	772.6	762.0
Provincial administration	597.6	611.8	606.1	568.5
Local administration	528.3	513.7	507.9	497.2
<b>Total wages and salaries</b>	<b>24,142.4</b>	<b>24,440.2</b>	<b>24,560.6</b>	<b>22,388.8</b>
Supplementary labour income	2,625.5	2,658.2	2,670.0	2,410.6
<b>Labour income</b>	<b>26,767.9</b>	<b>27,098.4</b>	<b>27,230.6</b>	<b>24,799.4</b>
(Seasonally Adjusted)				
Agriculture, fishing and trapping	192.0	193.6	193.8	198.1
Forestry	177.3	177.4	172.9	161.0
Mines, quarries and oil wells	607.5	606.3	602.2	556.8
Manufacturing industries	5,172.4	5,118.7	5,110.0	4,792.9
Construction industry	1,591.4	1,585.2	1,571.1	1,405.3
Transportation, communications and other utilities	2,390.6	2,397.8	2,324.8	2,235.0
Trade	3,353.8	3,342.7	3,326.8	3,103.5
Finance, insurance and real estate	2,002.9	2,007.0	1,981.8	1,825.6
Commercial and personal service	3,355.7	3,329.4	3,299.7	3,077.1
Education and related services	2,077.1	2,070.6	2,048.6	1,922.1
Health and welfare services	1,658.9	1,655.6	1,643.4	1,547.5
Federal administration and other government offices	795.7	786.8	778.5	777.4
Provincial administration	605.0	610.0	604.3	572.1
Local administration	514.0	512.1	511.1	485.2
<b>Total wages and salaries</b>	<b>24,518.8</b>	<b>24,418.8</b>	<b>24,198.1</b>	<b>22,652.4</b>
Supplementary labour income	2,666.4	2,655.5	2,631.5	2,437.8
<b>Labour income</b>	<b>27,185.2</b>	<b>27,074.4</b>	<b>26,829.6</b>	<b>25,090.2</b>

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary estimates.

<sup>r</sup> Revised estimates.

<sup>f</sup> Final estimates.

## Construction Union Wage Rate Index

January 1989

- The Canada total Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for construction trades (1981=100) increased 0.1% in January from December's revised figure of 148.4. On a year-over-year basis, the composite index increased by 5.2%, from 141.1 to 148.5.
- On a monthly basis, the total wage package for plumbers in Vancouver was adjusted upwards by 0.6%. As a result, this city's index and the Canada total index increased 0.1%.
- All trades in British Columbia have signed new collective agreements which expire April 30, 1991. As a result, Vancouver showed an annual

increase of 6.2% and Victoria 6.0%. Ontario cities, on average, increased 5.4%, followed by Quebec City, Chicoutimi and Montreal at 5.1% and Saint John at 3.7%. Winnipeg (3.1%), Halifax (1.4%) and St. John's (0.1%) showed modest to negligible increases.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 400-405, 956 and 958.

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.

## Construction Union Wage Rate Indexes<sup>1</sup>

January 1989  
(1981=100)

	Jan. 1989	Dec. 1988	Jan. 1988	% change	
				Jan. '89/ Dec. '88	Jan. '89/ Jan. '88
Canada	148.5	148.4	141.1	0.1	5.2
St. John's	142.8	142.8	142.7	-	0.1
Halifax	167.4	167.4	165.1	-	1.4
Saint John	149.5	149.5	144.2	-	3.7
Quebec City	149.7	149.7	142.5	-	5.1
Chicoutimi	149.1	149.1	141.8	-	5.1
Montreal	149.4	149.4	142.2	-	5.1
Ottawa	155.0	155.0	147.2	-	5.3
Toronto	150.2	150.2	142.5	-	5.4
Hamilton	150.8	150.8	142.9	-	5.5
St. Catharines	152.8	152.8	145.0	-	5.4
Kitchener	156.7	156.7	148.5	-	5.5
London	155.2	155.2	147.6	-	5.1
Windsor	152.2	152.2	144.5	-	5.3
Sudbury	154.2	154.2	146.3	-	5.4
Thunder Bay	153.2	153.2	145.2	-	5.5
Winnipeg	140.6	140.6	136.4	-	3.1
Vancouver	140.3	140.2	132.1	0.1	6.2
Victoria	140.0	140.0	132.1	-	6.0

<sup>1</sup> Basic rate plus supplements.

- Nil or zero.

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## Data Availability Announcements

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### Provincial Government Enterprise Finance 1986

In 1986, provincial government business enterprises earned an after-tax profit of \$2,855 million, up \$144 million (5%) over the previous year.

Total income reached \$36,929 million, an increase of \$1,393 million (4%) over 1985. Sales of goods and services, and investment income remained the largest sources of income. Sales of goods and services were \$31,076 million, up 3% over 1985 and investment income grew by 8% in 1986 to reach \$5,058 million. The growth in investment income is down from the 14% increase in 1985.

The debt of provincial government enterprises stood at \$128,913 million at the end of 1986, up \$6,769 million over the previous year. This annual increase in debt of 6% is comparable to the increase in 1985 but is down considerably from the 12% increase in 1984. This has resulted primarily from a slowdown in the construction of new facilities by the provincial hydro corporations.

The 1986 issue of *Provincial Government Enterprise Finance* (61-204) has been postponed indefinitely. However, data is now available from the Public Institutions Division on microcomputer printouts and data from 1980 to present will shortly be made available on CANSIM.

For more information on this release, please contact Richard Sauriol (613-951-1832) or Graham Frost (613-951-1829), Assets, Liabilities and Enterprises Section, Public Institutions Division.

### Steel Ingots

Week Ending March 4, 1989

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian steel ingot production for the week ending March 4, 1989 totalled 304 250 tonnes, a decrease of 2.5% from the preceding week's total of 311 966 tonnes but up 11.4% from the year-earlier level of 273 121 tonnes. The cumulative total in 1989 was 2 775 746 tonnes, an increase of 7.1% from 2 592 364 tonnes for the same period in 1988.

For further information on this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-9827), Industry Division.



## Publications Released

**Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics, 1988.**

**Catalogue number 13-218**

(Canada: \$35; Other Countries: \$36).

**Aggregate Productivity Measures, 1987.**

**Catalogue number 15-204**

(Canada: \$28; Other Countries: \$29).

**Industry Price Indexes, December 1988.**

**Catalogue number 62-011**

(Canada: \$16.50/\$165; Other Countries: \$18.50/\$185).

**Labour Force Information, February 1989.**

**Catalogue number 71-001P**

(Canada: \$5.50/\$55; Other Countries: \$6.50/\$65).  
Available Friday at 7am.

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### 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-N, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613-951-1116)

Editor: Bonnie Williams (613-951-1103)

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