

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, April 12, 1989

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Major Releases

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Building Permits, January 1989

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- The estimated value of building permits issued in Canada showed a slight decrease (2.0%) from December.

Farm Product Price Index, February 1989

5

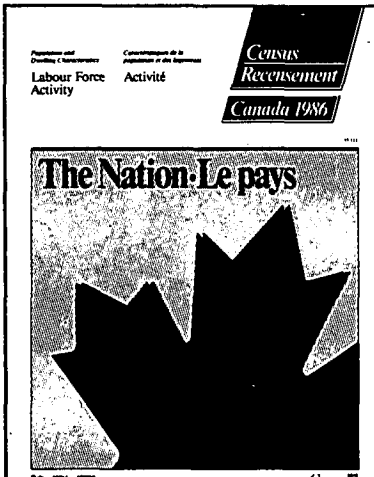
- Farm prices rose 0.7% from January.

The Nation: Labour Force Activity

7

- Labour force participation of women aged 25 to 44 years has increased 250% since 1971.

(continued on next page)



The Nation - Labour Force Activity 1986 Census

In the early 1980s, changes in Canada's labour force continued to be influenced by higher participation rates for women. Continuing a trend that has existed for several decades, women's labour force participation rate grew from 39.9% in 1971 to 55.4% in 1986. Over the same 15 years, the participation rate for men remained relatively stable, thereby narrowing the gap in participation rates of the sexes.

The Nation - Labour Force Activity (93-111, \$46) summarizes 1986 Census findings about Canada's employed and unemployed population aged 15 and over. Publication highlights are found on page 7 of today's *Daily*, or see "How to Order Publications" on page 12.



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Data Availability Announcements

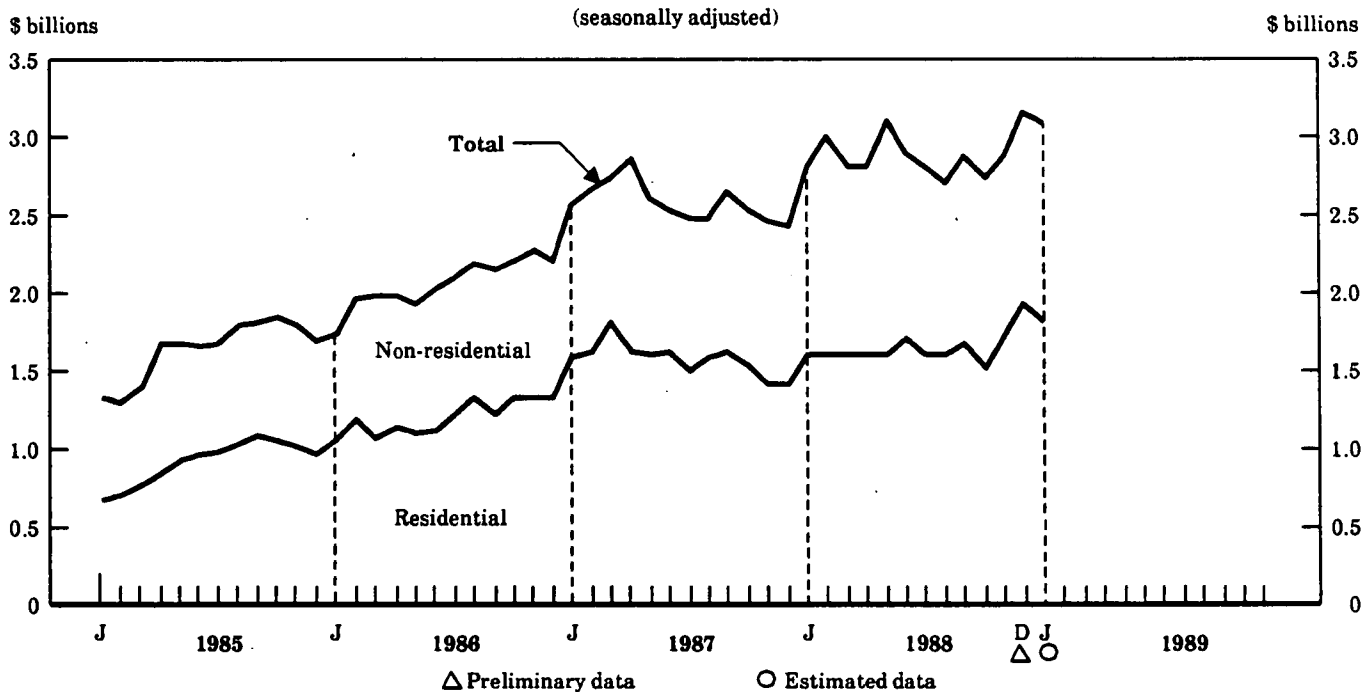
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Major Releases

Chart 1
Value of Building Permits Issued in Canada



Building Permits

January 1989

(Seasonally adjusted data and construction short-term trend index)

Summary

The estimated value of building permits issued in Canada totalled \$3,085.4 million in January 1989, a slight 2.0% decrease from \$3,147.2 million in December. The residential sector was responsible for this decrease.

Residential Sector

- The estimated value of residential building permits decreased 6.0% in January to \$1,800.2 million compared to \$1,915.8 million in December.

- This drop was entirely attributable to the single-family dwelling sector which decreased 9.0% to \$1,304.0 million while the multi-family sector gained 2.9% to \$496.2 million.
- The number of dwelling units authorized totalled 228,800 in January (134,100 single detached and 94,700 multiple dwellings), a gain of 2.4% from December.
- On a regional basis, increases were reported in the Atlantic region, Quebec and the Prairies in the number of dwelling units while Ontario and British Columbia registered decreases in January.

(continued on page 4)

Chart 2
Building Permits Indexes,
Canada

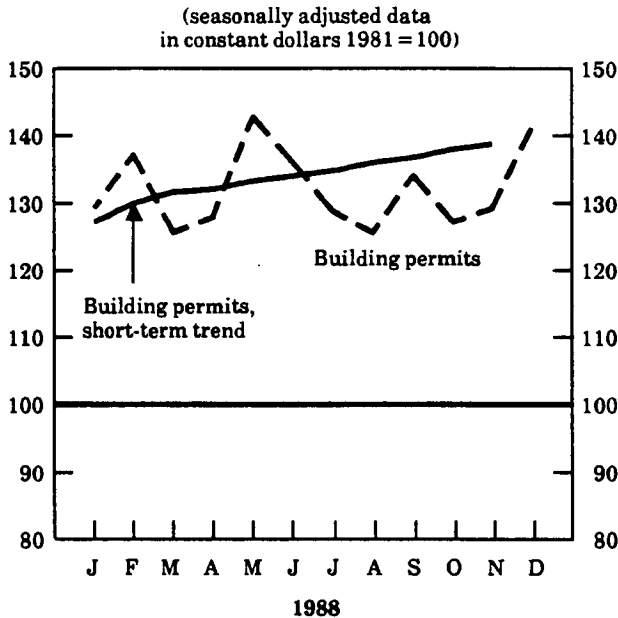
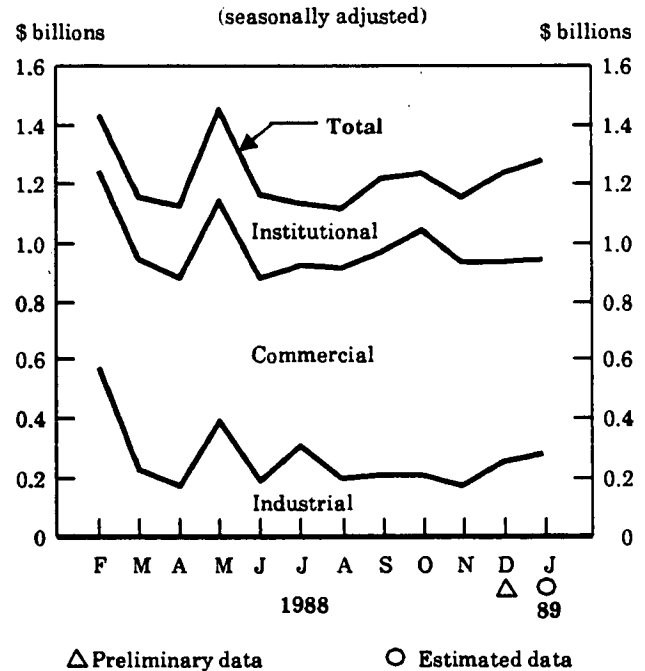


Chart 3
Value of Non-residential Permits Issued
in Canada



Non-residential Sector

- The value of non-residential building permits issued rose 4.4% in January, reaching \$1,285.2 million compared to \$1,231.4 million in December.
- Gains were recorded in both the institutional (+16.3% to \$348.9 million) and the industrial components (+10.8% to \$279.4 million) in January. The commercial component registered a slight decrease of 3.3% to \$656.9 million.
- The Atlantic region, Quebec and British Columbia recorded increases in non-residential value while Ontario and the Prairies recorded losses.

Short-term Trend

- The short-term trend of construction (excluding engineering projects) increased 0.8% in November 1988 to 138.9.
- The trend index of residential permits increased 0.9% in November to 157.0 and the non-residential trend index gained 0.6% to 119.8.

Note to Users

The short-term trend is based on the value of the building permits issued and comprises the following statistical transformations: deflating (1981=100), seasonal adjustment and filtering (using the 23-month Henderson moving average method) in order to smooth out irregular fluctuations to produce a trend-cycle.

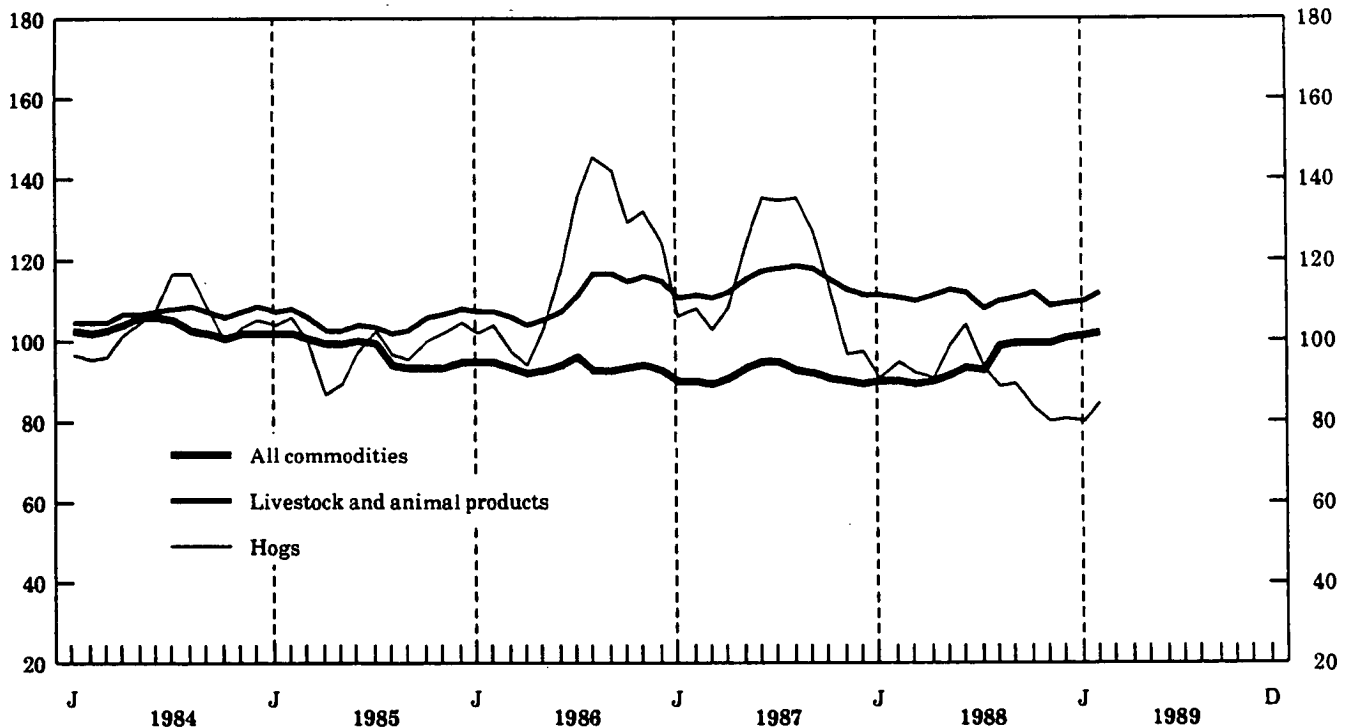
Given the preliminary nature of the data of the last two months and in order to reduce the number of false signals in the construction activity series, this leading indicator is lagging two months behind the month of reference.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 80 (levels 3-7, 9-15), 129, 137, 443, 989-991, 994, 995 and 4073.

The December 1988 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$20/\$200) is scheduled for release the second week of May. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Francine Monette (613-951-2583), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

Farm Product Price Index (1981 = 100)



Farm Product Price Index February 1989

The Farm Product Price Index (1981 = 100) for Canada stood at 101.6 in February, up 0.7% from the revised January level of 100.9. The index has increased in nine of the last 12 months and, in February, was 13.6% above the year-earlier level. An increase in the livestock index more than offset a small decrease in the crops index.

The percentage changes in the index between January and February 1989 by province were as follows:

• Newfoundland	+1.8%
• Prince Edward Island	+6.1%
• Nova Scotia	+1.6%
• New Brunswick	+2.2%
• Quebec	+2.0%
• Ontario	+0.4%
• Manitoba	no change
• Saskatchewan	-0.3%
• Alberta	+0.6%
• British Columbia	+0.4%
• Canada	+0.7%

Livestock and Animal Products

The livestock and animal products index rose 1.6% in February to a level of 111.5. Although higher hog and cattle prices were largely responsible for the rise, all six livestock sub-indexes registered increases. The livestock index was 0.8% above the February 1988 level of 110.6.

- The hog index stood at 84.3 in February, 5.5% above the level recorded in January. Coincident with the increase in prices was the release on December 1 of the "Hogs and Pigs" report in the United States, which indicated a drop in the number of hogs on farms. Despite the price increase, the hog index remained 10.8% below the year-earlier level of 94.5.
- The cattle and calves index rose 1.8% in February to 111.3. This represented only the second time in the last 10 months that the index has increased. Associated with this increase were trade expectations that beef production in the

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United States would be lower in 1989 than in 1988. Cattle prices declined steadily in the last half of 1988 as drought-induced herd liquidation in the U.S. boosted production.

Crops

The crops index declined 0.7% to a level of 90.8. This represented only the second month in the last 11 that the index has decreased. In February it stood 37.0% above the year-earlier level of 66.3. Grain and oilseed prices rose substantially in 1988 as drought in North America reduced global grain surpluses.

- The oilseeds index decreased 5.5% in February to a level of 107.9 as prices for flaxseed, canola and soybeans all declined. Despite the decrease in February, the index was 19.6% above the previous year's level of 90.2. Although oilseed prices have generally trended down over the past six months, the index has displayed significant month-to-month volatility. The markets have been very sensitive to events that can affect a tight supply/demand situation.
- The cereals index stood at 82.1 in February, down 0.4% from the previous month. A decrease in the average price producers received for barley was responsible for the fall in the index, as a larger proportion of deliveries to the Canadian Wheat Board were of the lower priced feed barley.

Note to Users:

The index is designed to measure changes in prices received by producers when ownership of a commodity first changes hands. Prices used in the index for Western wheat, oats and barley sold to the Canadian Wheat Board prior to August 1987 are final prices. Beginning in August 1987, initial prices are used and, therefore, they exclude any forthcoming adjustment or final payments. Sub-indexes for crops, livestock and their components are also available on a provincial basis.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 176.

The February issue of *Farm Product Price Index* (62-003, \$6.50/\$65) is scheduled for release April 28. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Ed Hamilton (613-951-2441), Farm Income and Prices Section, Agriculture Division.

The Nation - Labour Force Activity

1986 Census

More women with children at home participate in the labour force than ever before. Between 1981 and 1986, there was a 21% growth in the labour force for women with children at home, and a 25% growth for women whose children were all under six years of age.

The Nation - Labour Force Activity summarizes findings of the 1986 Census taken from the one in five sample of all Canadian households enumerated. Four tables are presented in this publication, including one that looks specifically at women, with and without children at home. This publication also provides an historical perspective with the inclusion of data from the 1971, 1976, 1981 and 1986 censuses. Data are available for Canada, the provinces and territories.

Some highlights include:

- More married women, living with their spouses and with children under six years of age, were in the labour force. Their participation rate jumped from 49.4% in 1981 to 62.1% in 1986.

- Among women with children at home, labour force participation was highest for those aged 35 - 44 who were either divorced or living apart from their spouse (77.0%), and lowest for widows aged 45 and over (29.0%).
- Some 91.5% of married women, aged 25 to 34, who lived with their spouse but had no children at home, were in the labour force.
- For university graduates, the Northwest Territories had the highest labour force participation rates in 1986 (97.9% for men; 87.0% for women). Among persons with less than a Grade 9 education, the highest labour force participation rates were found in the Yukon at 60.3% for men and 37.0% for women.

To order *The Nation - Labour Force Activity* (93-111, \$46/\$56) or for more information on any of the 19 publications in The Nation Series, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.

For more information on today's release, call Nancy McLaughlin (613-951-0292), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

Data Availability Announcements

Quarterly Demographic Statistics July 1, 1986 to January 1, 1989

For Canada, Provinces and Territories

Postcensal population estimates from July 1, 1986 to June 1, 1987 have been finalized and those from July 1, 1987 to October 1, 1988 updated. For January 1, 1989, they are preliminary.

The above-mentioned estimates of population as well as corresponding figures on immigration, emigration, interprovincial migration, births, deaths and marriages are now available on CANSIM: quarterly population estimates, matrix 1; annual population estimates, matrix 60; immigration, matrix 397; inter-emigration, matrix 6516; births, deaths and marriages, matrices 4, 5 and 6; provincial migration (Family Allowances) matrices 5731, 6982 and 6514 and (Revenue Canada) matrices 6981 and 6515.

Quarterly Demographic Statistics (91-002, \$7/\$28) will be available in the next few weeks. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information, contact the nearest regional reference centre, or the relevant division. For vital statistics (births, deaths and marriages), E. Sander (613-951-1746), Health Division; for other demographic estimates, Lise Champagne (613-951-2320), Demography Division.

Sugar Sales March 1989

Canadian sugar refiners reported total sales of 79 317 142 kilograms for all types of sugar in March 1989, comprising 74 640 156 kilograms in domestic sales and 4 676 986 kilograms in export sales. The 1989 year-to-date sales reported for all types of sugar totalled 230 378 142 kilograms: 212 116 156 kilograms in domestic sales and 18 261 986 kilograms in export sales.

This compares to total sales of 87 588 000 kilograms in March 1988, of which 80 695 000 kilograms were domestic sales and 6 893 000 kilograms were export sales. The 1988 year-to-date sales reported for all types of sugar totalled 222 202 000 kilograms: 208 693 000 kilograms in domestic sales and 13 509 000 kilograms in export sales.

The March 1989 issue of *The Sugar Situation* (32-013, \$4.70/\$47) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard February 1989

Canadian firms produced 151 366 cubic metres of waferboard in February 1989, an increase of 1.8% from the 148 706^r cubic metres produced in February 1988. Particleboard production reached 110 980 cubic metres, up 5.2% from 105 481^r cubic metres the previous year. Production of hardboard for February 1989 was 3 580 thousand square metres, basis 3.175 mm (38,534 thousand square feet, basis 1/8-inch), a decrease of 4.2% from the 3 735 thousand square metres, basis 3.175 mm (40,206 thousand square feet, basis 1/8-inch) of hardboard produced in February 1988.

Production of waferboard during the first two months of 1989 totalled 312 668 cubic metres, up 7.2% from the 291 786^r cubic metres produced during the same period a year earlier. Particleboard production was 220 436 cubic metres, up 9.7% from the 201 001^r cubic metres in January to February 1988. Year-to-date production of hardboard reached 6 611 thousand square metres, basis 3.175 mm (71,161 thousand square feet, basis 1/8-inch), down 3.9% from the 6 881 thousand square metres, basis 3.175 mm (74,062 thousand square feet, basis 1/8-inch) for the same period in 1988.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 31 (series 2, 3 and 4) and 122 (series 8 and 34).

The February 1989 issue of *Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard* (36-003, \$4.70/\$47) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Jacques Lepage (613-951-3516), Industry Division.

Steel Ingots

February 1989

Steel ingot production for February 1989 totalled 1 270 731 tonnes, an increase of 6.3% from 1 195 116^r (revised figure) tonnes the previous year.

Year-to-date production reached 2 615 515 tonnes, up 6.6% from 2 453 038^r tonnes a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 58 (level 2, series 3).

The February 1989 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$4.70/\$47) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products

February 1989

Factory shipments of steel wire and specified wire products for February 1989 are now available, as are production and export market data for selected commodities.

Factory shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 58 505 tonnes in February 1989, an increase of 3.5% from the 56 520^r tonnes shipped during the previous month.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The February 1989 issue of *Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products* (41-006, \$4.70/\$47) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Bruno Pepin (613-951-9837), Industry Division.

Publications Released

Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics,
January 1989.

Catalogue number 63-011

(Canada: \$5.80/\$58; Other Countries: \$7/\$70).

Security Transactions with Non-residents,
January 1989.

Catalogue number 67-002

(Canada: \$15/\$150; Other Countries: \$18/\$180).

Residential Care Facilities for Mental Disorders,
1984-85, 1985-86.

Catalogue number 83-238

(Canada: \$24; Other Countries: \$25).

The Nation - Labour Force Activity,
1986 Census.

Catalogue number 93-111

(Canada: \$46; Other Countries: \$56).

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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).

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