

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, April 4, 1989

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Major Release

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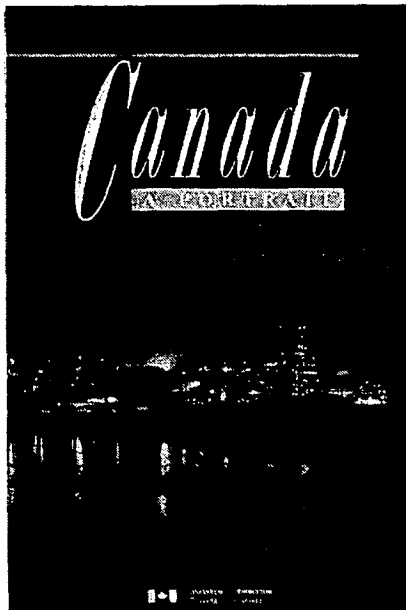
## Composite Leading Indicator, January 1989

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- The composite leading indicator continued to post steady growth in January.

(continued on page 2)

### Canada: A Portrait



The release today of the 52nd edition of *Canada: A Portrait* marks a turning point in the evolution of its 60 year-old publishing history. Redesigned, and sporting a new title, this publication captures the tradition and technology of Canada while recording present Canadian conditions and recent progress.

The intent of *Canada: A Portrait* remains the same as it was in 1931: "It is an effort to survey the Canadian situation as a whole within a reasonable space, in a popular and attractive format, and at a cost which makes possible a wide distribution".

Combining over 200 colour photographs with charts, tables and concise text, the publication provides the latest facts and figures on a diverse range of subjects. Included in the subject matter are such topics as the land, history, education, arts and culture, communication, health and welfare, the government and legal system, the economy and the labour scene.

*Canada: A Portrait* (11-403E, \$19.95 plus \$3.05 shipping and handling) is now available at leading bookstores across Canada and through Statistics Canada's regional reference centres. See also "How to Order Publications."

For more information, contact Ellen Henderson (613-951-1114), Communications Division.



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**Data Availability Announcement**

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Federal Government Employment, December 1988 5

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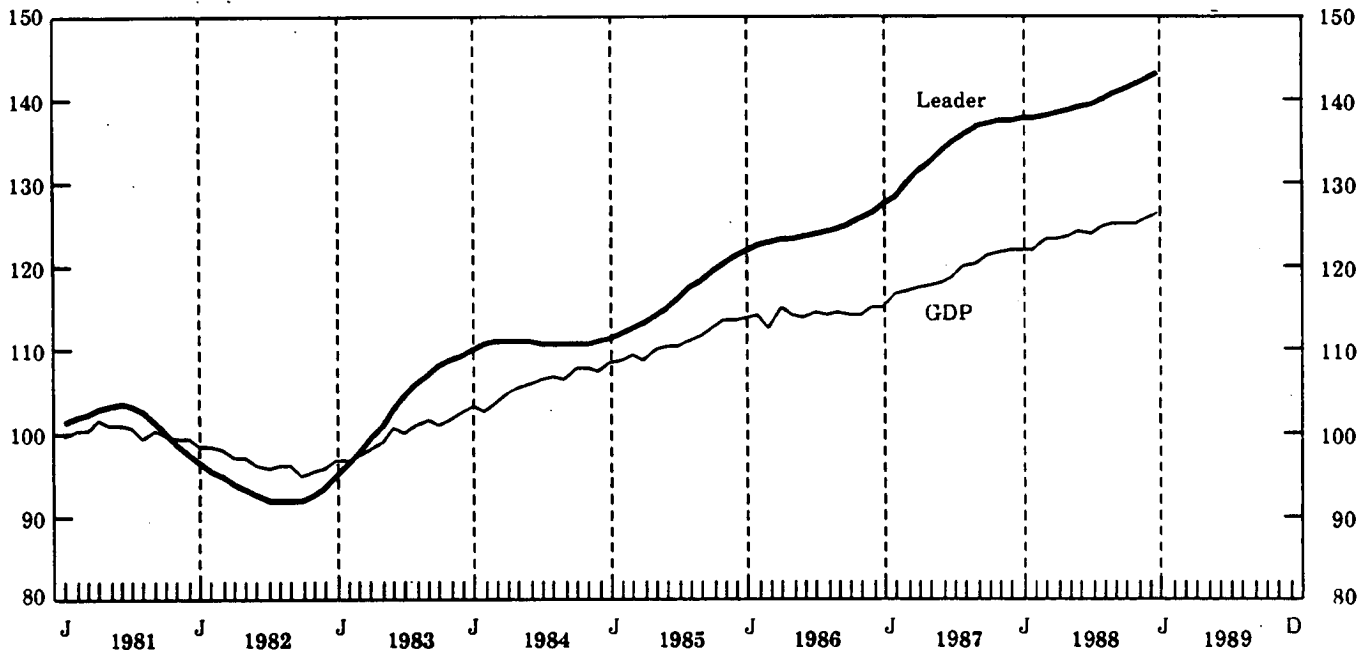
**Regional Reference Centres** 7

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## Major Release

### Composite Leading Indicator and GDP

1981 = 100



### Composite Leading Indicator January 1989

In January, the composite leading index rose by 0.5%, little changed from the gains posted since September. The indicators of final demand for business investment and housing continued to rise at a relatively fast rate. Overall, nine of the 10 components rose in January, the same number as in December and one more than in November. The overall increase and its widespread sources suggest that economic growth will continue through the early part of 1989.

The indexes related to housing accelerated in January. The house spending index rose by 1.5% while furniture and appliance sales grew by 0.7%. Sales of other durable goods slowed in the month, however, as auto sales declined at a time of rising consumer interest rates.

Business investment in plant and equipment remained a major source of growth. Employment in

business and personal services rose 0.7%. As well, the stock market posted a strong gain of 1.3% in January.

The indicators of manufacturing continued to increase slowly, partly because of an upturn in auto shipments to the United States. Strong investment spending also helped to raise new orders and the average work week.

(see table on page 4)

Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.

The April issue of *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$20/\$200) will be available the week of April 17. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, or about the next release dates, contact F. Roy-Mayrand (613-951-3627), International and Financial Economics Division.

## Canadian Leading Indicators

	Percentage Change			Level
	November	December	January	January
<b>Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)</b>				
Smoothed	0.4	0.5	0.5	143.3
Unsmoothed	-0.2	1.4	0.6	145.3
<b>Retail Trade</b>				
Furniture and appliance sales	0.4	0.4	0.7	12,631 <sup>5</sup>
Other durable goods sales	0.2	0.6	0.4	47,217 <sup>5</sup>
<b>House Spending index<sup>1</sup></b>	0.9	0.8	1.5	149.8
<b>Manufacturing</b>				
New orders - durable	-0.4	-0.5	0.5	10,159 <sup>4</sup>
Shipment to inventory ratio - (finished goods <sup>2</sup> )	-0.01	-0.00	-0.00	1.42
Average workweek (hours)	0.1	0.1	0.0	38.9
Business and personal service employment (thousands)	0.8	0.8	0.7	1,716
<b>United States</b>				
composite leading index (1967 = 100)	0.0	0.1	0.2	192.8
<b>TSE300 stock price index (1975 = 1000)</b>	0.3	0.4	1.3	3,391
<b>Money supply (M1) (\$1981)<sup>3</sup></b>	0.4	0.3	0.3	26,383 <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (MLS).

<sup>2</sup> Difference from previous month.

<sup>3</sup> Deflated by the consumer price index for all items.

<sup>4</sup> Millions of 1981 dollars.

<sup>5</sup> Millions of 1981 dollars, seasonally adjusted at an annual rate.

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## Data Availability Announcement

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### Federal Government Employment

December 1988

#### Highlights

- Federal general government employment increased by 0.3% in December 1988 compared with December 1987. General government includes departments, agencies, boards, and commissions but excludes government enterprises.
- There were 368,811 general government employees in December 1988, an increase of 1,135 from the December 1987 level of 367,676.
- As compared with December 1987, employment for federal government enterprises decreased 4.2%, or 8,580, to 196,587 in December 1988. Privatization of some operations of enterprises was a major factor in the decrease.

- Compared to December 1987, total federal government employment decreased 1.3%, or 7,445, to 565,398 in December 1988.

Available on CANSIM: quarterly data located in matrix 2717; monthly data by province in matrix 2718; Canadian Armed Forces data in matrix 2720.

For more information on this release, contact Peter Dudley (613-951-1845), Public Institutions Division.

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## Publications Released

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### Canada: A Portrait

Catalogue number 11-403E

(Canada: \$19.95 + \$3.05 shipping and handling;  
Other Countries: \$19.95 + \$5.05 shipping and  
handling).

Department Store Sales and Stocks,  
September 1988.

Catalogue number 63-002

(Canada: \$13/\$130; Other Countries: \$14/\$140).

### Canadian Forestry Statistics, 1986.

Catalogue number 25-202

(Canada: \$26; Other Countries: \$31).

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*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.*

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*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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### Statistics Canada's Official Release Bulletin for Statistical Information

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

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Statistics Canada, 3-N, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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Statistics Canada's regional reference centres provide a full range of the bureau's products and services. Each reference centre is equipped with a library and a sales counter where users can consult or purchase our publications, microcomputer diskettes, microfiche, maps and more.

Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from Statistics Canada's computerized data retrieval systems CANSIM and Telichart. A telephone inquiry service is also available with toll free numbers for regional clients outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services - from seminars to consultations - are offered. Call or write your regional reference centre for information.

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