



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, January 29, 1991

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MAJOR RELEASES

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MAJOR RELEASES

Industrial Product Price Index

December 1990

According to preliminary figures, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1986=100) edged down 0.2% to 110.5 in December 1990, from November's revised level of 110.7. This decrease follows four consecutive monthly increases.

The largest index increases this month were shown by petroleum and coal products, estimated at 1.3%, followed by non-metallic mineral products (0.4%) and chemicals and chemical products (0.3%). These were more than offset by decreases for primary metal products (-2.6%), followed by paper and paper products (-0.5%) and autos, trucks and other transportation equipment (-0.2%). In the latter case, the major factor was the 0.2% decrease, in December, of the U.S. dollar versus its Canadian counterpart and its downward effect on prices for exported goods.

Since December 1989, the IPPI has increased 1.8%. During the last six months, the year-to-year rate has shown a sustained growth, going from -0.5% in July to 1.8% this month. The main factor behind this growth is the petroleum and coal products index which has seen its annual rate of change go from 2.4% in July to 22.8% in December 1990.

Both intermediate and finished goods component indexes have shown a similar pattern. Within the intermediate goods, petroleum products are in the second stage goods index which showed an annual rate of change of 1.7% in December 1990 compared to -0.4% in July. Also, first the stage intermediate goods have kept showing a diminishing negative rate of change, from -11.7% in January 1990 to only -1.4% in December, in large part reflecting a relative stabilization in non-ferrous base metals prices.

Within the finished goods sector, petroleum products are in the "All other finished goods" index, which has seen its annual rate go from 1.4% in July to 4.5% in December. The other two components for finished goods - foods and capital equipment - have shown relatively stable rates of annual change during the period. Excluding petroleum and coal products, the 12-month change was 0.6% in December; the annual rate has been stable since September when it stood at 0.4%.

Highlights

- According to initial estimates, the petroleum and coal products price index rose 1.3% during the past month, reflecting higher prices for gasoline and fuel oils. Over the last 12 months, the petroleum and coal index has risen 22.8%.
- The chemicals and chemical products index increased by 0.3% in December 1990, its fourth consecutive increase, due mainly to a 0.7% gain posted by the synthetic resins index. The chemicals and chemical products index has seen its annual rate of change go from -0.7% in September 1990 to 5.6% in December, reflecting the effects of higher prices for petroleum derivatives.
- For a third consecutive month, the primary metal products index showed a decline, -2.6% in December. Decreases of 7.1% for aluminum products, of 6.8% for nickel products and 5.1% for copper and copper alloy products led the way. Partially moderating that pattern, iron and steel products showed no change. Over the last 12 months, the primary metal products index has declined 3.5%; the copper and copper alloy products index was the only one to show an increase (3.4%), while iron and steel products prices fell slightly, by 0.6%.
- The paper and paper products index fell 0.5% in December 1990, due mainly to a 2.2% drop in pulp prices. Lower prices were experienced on both domestic and export markets. Over the last 12 months, the pulp index fell 11.5% and was the major factor behind the 2.5% decline in the paper and paper products index.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2000-2008.

The December 1990 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$18.20/\$182) will be available towards the end of February 1991. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Industrial Product Price Indexes

(1986 = 100)

Index	Relative Importance ¹	Index December 1990 ²	December 1990/ November 1990	December 1990/ December 1989
% change				
Industrial Product Price Index - Total	100.0	110.5	-0.2	1.8
Total IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products³	93.6	110.2	-0.3	0.6
Intermediate goods	60.4	111.3	-0.4	0.9
First stage intermediate goods	13.4	117.5	-1.7	-1.4
Second stage intermediate goods	47.0	109.6	0.1	1.7
Finished goods	39.6	109.2	0.0	3.3
Finished foods and feeds	9.9	113.4	-0.1	2.7
Capital equipment	10.4	106.7	-0.1	1.7
All other finished goods	19.3	108.4	0.1	4.5
Aggregation by commodities:				
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.4	109.9	-0.2	3.0
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	6.3	111.9	0.1	0.3
Beverages	2.0	115.9	-0.3	1.5
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.7	132.9	0.1	11.7
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.1	115.6	0.0	0.8
Textile products	2.2	109.3	0.0	0.2
Knitted products and clothing	2.3	112.0	-0.1	1.4
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	4.9	103.9	-0.2	-3.7
Furniture and fixtures	1.7	117.2	0.0	1.8
Paper and paper products	8.1	119.2	-0.5	-2.5
Printing and publishing	2.7	121.8	-0.3	3.0
Primary metal products	7.7	110.4	-2.6	-3.5
Metal fabricated products	4.9	112.4	0.0	0.4
Machinery and equipment	4.2	114.0	0.0	1.2
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	17.6	97.8	-0.2	1.5
Electrical and communication products	5.1	110.7	-0.1	-0.7
Non-metallic mineral products	2.6	112.0	0.4	0.4
Petroleum and coal products ³	6.4	114.8	1.3	22.8
Chemical, chemical products	7.2	118.1	0.3	5.6
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.5	109.7	-0.1	0.9
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.4	81.7	-1.4	1.1

¹ Weights are derived from the "make" matrix of the 1986 Input/Output table.

² Indexes are preliminary.

³ This index is estimated for the current month.

Raw Materials Price Index

December 1990

Monthly Change

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1986 = 100) decreased 7.2% between November and December 1990 to a preliminary level of 121.9. The movement of the total RMPI in December, as in previous months, was dominated by price movements of crude mineral oil which is the main component of the mineral fuels index. Prices of crude mineral oil decreased 15.5% in December after four months of price increases averaging 22.3%. The RMPI excluding the mineral fuels index decreased 0.9%; this is due in large part to price changes of less than 1% among five of the remaining six major indices. Other contributors to the monthly change were:

- The wood index was up 0.6%. An increase of 0.8% was registered for logs and bolts.
- The non-ferrous metals index was down by 4.1%. This was due in large part to decreases for concentrates of copper (5.4%), lead (7.7%) and nickel (5.8%). Aluminum materials also decreased (6.7%).
- The animal and animal products index went down by 0.6%. Decreases of 6.1% were registered for hog prices while prices went up in the cattle for slaughter index (0.6%). Prices for furs, hides and skins increased 16.7% due to large price increases in hunting and trapping products.

Annual Change

Between December 1989 and December 1990, the RMPI increased 15.9%. The most significant contributor was the mineral fuels index which increased 53.0%. This index was, in turn, influenced by the price of crude mineral oil which increased 56.6% over the same period. The RMPI excluding mineral fuels decreased 0.7% for the same period. Among the six remaining major indices, three increased while three decreased. The following indices contributed to this annual change:

- The vegetable products index declined 6.0% as a result of lower prices for grains (-18.9%), oilseeds (-4.1%) and unrefined sugar (-18.7%). This was in part offset by higher prices for cocoa, coffee and tea (14.2%).
- The animal and animal products index increased 2.9%. Increases in cattle for slaughter (4.9%) and fish (11.9%) contributed to this increase.
- The non-ferrous metals index decreased 3.9%. Lead, nickel and zinc concentrates decreased by 5.3%, 7.5% and 11.6%, respectively.
- The wood index decreased 1.3% as prices declined for logs and bolts (-2.0%). These price decreases were partially offset by smaller increases in prices for pulpwood.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2009.

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

Raw Materials Price Index

(1986 = 100)

	Relative importance	Index December 1990 ¹	% Change	
			December 1990/ November 1990	December 1990/ December 1989
Raw Materials - Total	100	121.9	-7.2	15.9
Mineral fuels	32	157.1	-14.9	53.0
Vegetable products	10	92.4	-0.4	-6.0
Animal and animal products	25	105.5	-0.6	2.9
Wood	13	119.3	0.6	-1.3
Ferrous materials	4	92.7	-0.3	0.7
Non-ferrous metals	13	106.4	-4.1	-3.9
Non-metallic minerals	3	103.5	0.0	3.4
Total excluding mineral fuels	68	105.6	-0.9	-0.7

¹ These indexes are preliminary.

Building Permits

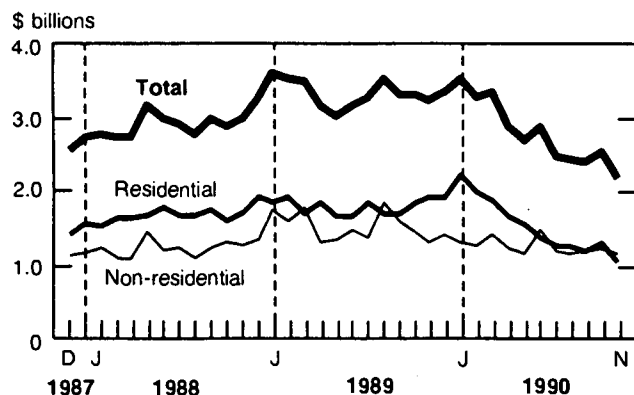
November 1990

Summary

The preliminary value of building permits issued in Canada decreased 13.4% in November to \$2,193.7 million, down from \$2,533.0 million in October. Both residential and non-residential construction contributed to this decline.

Value of Building Permits Issued in Canada

Seasonally adjusted



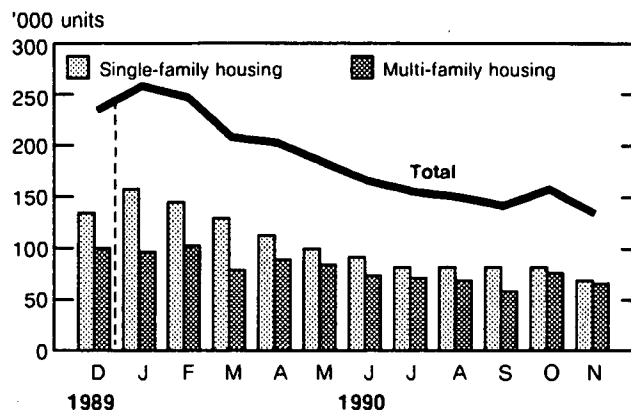
Note: Revised data for October, preliminary data for November.

Residential Sector

- The preliminary value of residential building permits decreased 19.8% in November to \$1,047.2 million, down from \$1,305.8 million in October.
- Both the single-family dwelling sector, which fell by 14.2% to \$742.2 million, and the multi-family dwelling sector, which declined by 30.7% to \$305.0 million, were responsible for this decrease.
- All regions in Canada reported losses in the value of residential building permits in November.
- The number of dwelling units authorized in November dropped 14.5% to 132,972 units at an annual rate (67,500 single detached and 65,472 multiple dwellings); this was the lowest level since January 1985.

Dwelling Units Authorized in Canada

Seasonally adjusted at annual rates



Note: Revised data for October, preliminary data for November.

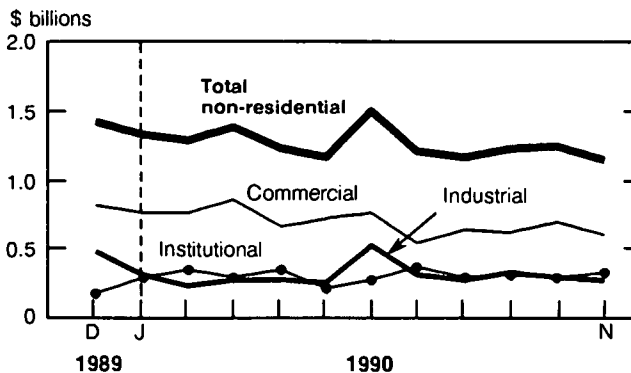
Non-residential Sector

The preliminary value of non-residential building permits fell by 6.6% in November to a level of \$1,146.5 million, down from \$1,227.2 million in October.

- The value of building permits declined in the industrial sector by 6.6% in November to \$255.5 million, and in the commercial sector by 13.9% to a level of \$582.9 million. However, the institutional sector recorded an increase of 11.4% to a level of \$308.1 million.
- The Atlantic and the Prairie regions were the only regions to report a gain in the value of non-residential building permits in November.

Value of Non-residential Permits Issued in Canada

Seasonally adjusted



Note: Revised data for October, preliminary data for November.

Short-term Trend

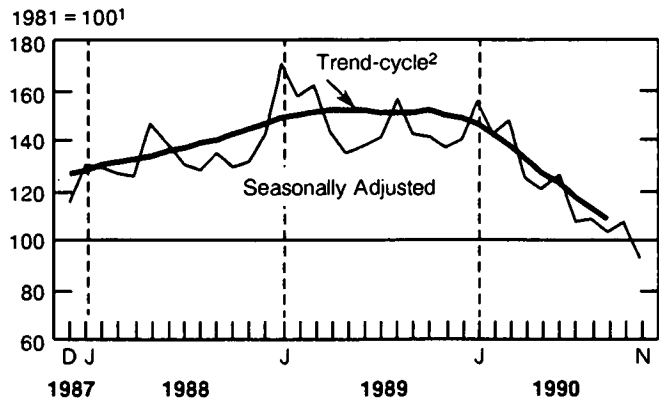
- In September, the short-term trend (excluding engineering projects) continued the downward trend which has been observed since November 1989, dropping 4.0% to 107.7. This was the lowest level recorded since August 1986.
- The trend index of residential permits decreased 6.0% to a level of 107.5 while the non-residential trend index dropped 1.7% to 107.9.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7, 9-15), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.

The November 1990 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$22/\$220) is scheduled for release the second week of February.

For further information on statistics, contact Pierre Pichette (613-951-2585) or Marcel Poirier (613-951-2026), and for analytical information, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-2025), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

Building Permits Indices



¹ This series is deflated by using the construction input price index which includes cost of material and labor.

² The trend-cycle shows the seasonally-adjusted value of Building Permits without irregular influences which can obscure the short-term trend.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period Ending January 14, 1991

Highlights

- Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the week totalled 5.0 million tonnes, a decrease of 1.2% from the same period last year.
- Piggyback traffic decreased 23.7% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded also decreased 14.6% during the same period.
- The tonnage of revenue freight loaded to date this year is 6.8% lower than that loaded in the previous year.

Note: Piggyback traffic includes trailers and containers on flat cars. Piggyback traffic numbers are included in total carload traffic. All 1990 figures have been revised.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2484), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

Railway Carloadings

December 1990

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada totalled 17.7 million tonnes in December 1990, a decrease of 6.6% from the December 1989 figure. The carriers received an additional 0.9 million tonnes from United States connections.

Total loadings in Canada for the year to date showed a decrease of 1.9% from the 1989 period, while receipts from United States connections showed an increase of 2.2%. All 1989 figures and 1990 cumulative data have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1431.

The December 1990 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, \$8.30/\$83) is to be released the third week of February.

For seasonally adjusted revenue freight loadings, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2484), Transportation Division. ■

Major Appliances

December 1990

Domestic sales of major appliances by Canadian manufacturers decreased to 151,556 units in December 1990, down 12.9% from 174,020 units in November 1990 and down 16.9% from the 182,346 units sold in the same month of 1989.

Year-to-date domestic sales from January to December 1990 amounted to 2,100,607 units compared to 2,448,223 units for the same period of 1989, or a 14.2% decrease.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 65, 66 and 122 (series 30).

The December 1990 issue of *Production, Sales and Stocks of Major Appliances* (43-010, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact J.P. Beauparlant (613-951-3526), Industry Division. ■

Gypsum Products

December 1990

Manufacturers shipped 14 511 thousand square metres of plain gypsum wallboard in December 1990, down 14.4% from the 16 953 thousand square metres shipped in December 1989 and down 24.3% from the 19 175 thousand square metres shipped in November 1990.

Year-to-date shipments were 253 056 thousand square metres, a decrease of 8.6% from the January to December 1989 period.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 39 and 122 (series 11).

The December 1990 issue of *Gypsum Products* (44-003, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527), Industry Division. ■

Residential General Contractors and Developers

1987

Highlights

- Operating revenue for 1987 increased by 27.1% over 1986 to a level of \$10.8 billion. The construction of single-family dwellings dominated the industry's output at 75.1% of construction revenue while multiple-housing units accounted for 18.1%. Non-residential and engineering construction represented the balance at 6.8%.
- Net operating profit as a percentage of total operating revenue for 1987 remained at the 1986 level of 5.1%. Regionally, profit margins were as follows: Quebec 5.7%, Ontario 5.6%, British Columbia 3.6%, Atlantic provinces 3.4% and the Prairies 3.3%.

Complete survey data will be available in the 1987 issue of *Residential General Contractors and Developers* (64-208, \$22), to be released in March. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact T. Newton (613-951-9693), Survey of Construction Section, Industry Division. ■

Non-residential General Contractors and Developers

1987

Highlights

- With total operating revenues of \$10.3 billion, industry volume of non-residential general contractors and developers in 1987 was up 33.8% from 1986. This increase follows a slight decrease between 1985 and 1986. Profit margins rose to 2.0% of revenue from 1.4% in 1986.

- The largest portion of industry output was in commercial construction, providing 52.5% of total operating revenue for 1987. The increase in this proportion from the 1986 level of 51.3% was accompanied by decreases in industrial construction and institutional construction to 20.3% and 17.1%, respectively.
- Provincially, the industry incurred net operating losses of 0.6% of total revenue in New Brunswick and 0.7% in Saskatchewan. Net operating profits were realized in the other provinces with Prince Edward Island (4.9%), Quebec (2.7%), Ontario (2.3%) and British Columbia (3.1%) ratios above the national average of 2.0%.

Complete survey data will be available in the 1987 issue of *Non-residential General Contractors and Developers* (64-207, \$22), to be released in March. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact T. Newton (613-951-9693), Survey of Construction Section, Industry Division. ■

Electric Power Selling Price Indexes

September-December 1990

Electric Power Selling Price Indexes (1986 = 100) are now available for the period September to December 1990.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2020.

The December 1990 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$18.20/\$182) will be available at the end of February 1990. See "How to order Publications".

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

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

The Sugar Situation, December 1990.

Catalogue number 32-013

(Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States:

US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries:

US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

**Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of
Sawmills in British Columbia**, November 1990.

Catalogue number 35-003

(Canada: \$7.10/\$71.00; United States:

US\$8.50/US\$85.00; Other Countries:

US\$9.90/US\$99.00).

Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation,
December 1990.

Catalogue number 44-004

(Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States:

US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries:

US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

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**The
Daily**

Statistics Canada's Official Release Bulletin for Statistical Information

Catalogue 11-001E. Price: Canada: \$120.00 annually; United States: US\$144.00 annually; Other Countries: US\$168.00 annually

Published by the Communications Division
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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