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Friday, October 14, 1988

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Major Releases

Consumer Price Index, September 1988

2

- The CPI year-to-year increase was 4.1%, up slightly from the 4.0% rise observed in August.

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, August 1988

10

- Following substantial declines in July, Canada's international merchandise trade returned to normal levels in August 1988.

Data Availability Announcements

Housing Starts, August 1988 16

Fruit and Vegetable Production, 1987/88 16

The Dairy Review, August 1988 16

Construction Type Plywood, August 1988 17

Export and Import Price Indexes, August 1988 17

Census of Manufactures, 1986:

Man-made Fibre and Filament and Yarn Industry 17

Agricultural Implement Industry 17

Compressor, Pump and Industrial Fan Industry 18

Motor Vehicle Wheel and Brake Industry 18

Electronic Parts and Components Industry 18

Electronic Computing and Peripheral Equipment Industry 18

Publications Released 19

Major Release Dates: October 17-21 20



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Major Releases

Consumer Price Index

September 1988

National Highlights

The all-items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada increased by 0.1% between August and September to reach a level of 145.0 (1981=100). Three of the major component indexes increased, three posted declines and one remained unchanged. The largest upward pressure was due to increases of 0.3% in the housing index and 1.0% in the recreation, reading and education index. Most of the offset resulted from declines of 0.6% in the transportation index and 0.2% in the food index.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the all-items index for September rose by 0.2%, down from the 0.4% increase reported for the previous month.

The year-over-year advance in the CPI between September 1987 and September 1988 was 4.1%, up slightly from the rise of 4.0% observed in August. The 12-month rates of increase for 1988 to date have continued to fluctuate around an average of 4.0%. The compound annual rate of increase based on the seasonally adjusted index levels between June and September was 4.8%, the same rate as that reported in the three-month period ending in August.

Food

The food index fell by 0.2% in September, compared to a moderate rise of 0.3% observed in August. This decline resulted from a fall of 0.4% in the index for food purchased from stores, combined with a rise of 0.3% in the index for food purchased from restaurants.

Much of the latest decrease in the index for food purchased from stores was attributable to seasonally lower prices for fresh vegetables (down 6.9%) and fresh fruit (down 1.3%), as local crops became more abundant. Lower prices were also registered for beef, pork and turkey, selected grain products (pasta, wheat flour, breakfast cereal and rice) and soft drinks. Beef and pork prices have fallen in response to increased supplies, while the lower prices of grain products and soft drinks mainly reflected specials and promotional pricing. Some part of the overall decline in food prices was offset by higher prices for chicken, fats and oils, bakery products, selected dairy products, fish, cured meat, coffee and sugar.

Note to Users

The expenditure weights used in compiling the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada and selected cities will be changed in the January 1989 index. This is in keeping with the policy of changing weights in the CPI every four years. The primary purpose of updating the weights is to make the CPI more representative of recent patterns of consumer expenditure.

The weights that will be used in constructing the CPI for the four years, starting in January 1989, reflect urban consumer expenditure patterns of 1986. They will replace the current expenditure weights from 1982, which were first introduced in the CPI for January 1985. It should be noted that this updating does not entail a change in the time reference base, i.e. the updated CPI will continue to use 1981=100 as its time reference point.

A document, entitled *The Consumer Price Index Reference Paper* (62-553, \$44) describing the impact on the CPI of changes resulting from the 1986 updating will be published at the same time that the January 1989 CPI will be released. For information on how to order this important working tool see "How to Order Publications". Meanwhile, general information on the 1986 updating of weights may be obtained by telephoning or writing the Information and Current Analysis Unit, Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0T6. Telephone: (613) 951-9606; (613) 951-9607; (613) 951-3353.

Higher feed prices and reduced production contributed to the advance in chicken prices, while the increases in fat and oil prices were a reflection of the lagged effects of sharp increases in raw soya bean oil between March and July.

Over the 12-month period, September 1987 to September 1988, the food index advanced by 4.1%, up from the 3.8% rise reported in the previous 12-month period. Advances of 3.7% in the food purchased from stores index and 5.2% in the food purchased from restaurants index were responsible for the latest increase.

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The Consumer Price Index and Major Components (Not Seasonally Adjusted), Canada
(1981 = 100)

	Indexes			Percentage change Sept. 1988 from	
	Sept. 1988	August 1988	Sept. 1987	August 1988	Sept. 1987
All-items	145.0	144.9	139.3	0.1	4.1
Food	137.5	137.8	132.1	-0.2	4.1
All-items excluding food	147.1	146.9	141.4	0.1	4.0
Housing	145.4	144.9	139.2	0.3	4.5
Clothing	131.3	131.4	125.4	-0.1	4.7
Transportation	142.4	143.3	141.8	-0.6	0.4
Health and personal care	146.9	146.1	141.0	0.5	4.2
Recreation, reading and education	146.9	145.5	139.1	1.0	5.6
Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages	200.0	200.0	186.4	0.0	7.3
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1981	69.0	69.0	71.8		
All-items Consumer Price Index converted to 1971 = 100	343.5				

All-items excluding Food

Between August and September, the all-items excluding food index also rose by 0.1%, a slowdown from the 0.3% rise reported in the previous month. The latest performance resulted from major offsetting movements in the components. Most of the increase was due to advances of 0.3% and 1.0%, respectively, in the indexes for housing and for recreation, reading and education. A considerable dampening effect was provided by a decline of 0.6% in the transportation index.

Much of the 0.3% increase in the housing index resulted from a 0.5% advance in the index for owned accommodation, attributable mainly to increases in new house prices, mortgage interest costs, and home repair and maintenance charges. Rented accommodation charges also advanced, as did the prices of domestic services, and detergent and soap. Child care costs rose 2.3% in September, as these fees are traditionally adjusted at the start of the school year. A moderate downward impact resulted from lower prices for fuel oil, selected household furniture and appliances, paper products and long-distance telephone calls.

The recreation, reading and education index advanced by 1.0%. A rise of 6.7% in cablevision charges led the recreation index to increase by 0.4%. The education index rose by 3.1%, as post-secondary tuition fees advanced by an average of 4.5%. Higher prices for selected magazines and books boosted the reading index by 1.3%.

A moderate contribution to the latest rise in the all-items excluding food index originated from a rise of 0.5% in the health and personal care index. Higher prices for prescribed and non-prescribed medicines and selected personal care supplies accompanied by a rise in dental care charges, explained the latest rise in this index. At the same time, offsetting movements within the tobacco products and alcoholic beverages index resulted in no change in that index. Higher prices for cigarettes, mainly associated with tax increases in Manitoba and British Columbia, were offset by lower prices for some imported wines.

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A decline of 0.6% in the transportation index had a considerable dampening effect on the rise in the all-items excluding food index. The decline resulted from a sharp drop in air fares, largely due to seasonally lower excursion fares and the impact of fall "seat sale" activity. Some part of this decrease was offset by higher automobile rental charges (termination of "special rates") and increased gasoline prices (mainly in some Western provinces).

The clothing index fell by 0.1%, thus contributing marginally to the overall change in non-food prices. The impact of a 0.3% decline in the women's wear index was almost completely offset by a rise of 0.4% in the men's wear index. The boys' wear index also fell, while the girls' wear index rose. The downward effects of promotional pricing were mostly counterbalanced by higher prices for fall clothing lines and the pass-through effects of higher wool prices.

Over the 12-month period, September 1987 to September 1988, the all-items excluding food index advanced by 4.0%, down slightly from the 4.1% increase reported in the 12-month period ending in August. September marked the fifth consecutive month in which the 12-month rate of increase in this index has decelerated.

Goods and Services

The goods index fell by 0.1% in September, following a rise of 0.1% reported in August. The increase in the services index also slowed to 0.3% compared to the 0.5% observed the month before. Over the 12-month period, September 1987 to September 1988, the goods index advanced by 3.8%, the same rate as in August, while the services index rose at an accelerated 4.4% (4.2% in August).

City Highlights

Between August and September, changes in the all-items indexes for cities for which CPIs are published ranged from a decline of 0.5% in Halifax to a rise of 0.5% in Vancouver. The noticeable decline in the Halifax CPI was largely due to sharp reductions in its food, housing and transportation indexes. The relatively steep increase in Vancouver's CPI resulted from increases in its food, transportation, and tobacco products and alcoholic beverages indexes, which nationally had declined or remained unchanged.

Between September 1987 and September 1988, advances in the all-items indexes for cities varied from 1.8% in Edmonton to 5.1% in Toronto.

Main Contributors to Monthly Changes in the All-items Index, by City

St. John's

No overall change was recorded in the all-items index. Among those factors exerting an upward influence were higher overall food prices, particularly for beef, poultry, dairy products, eggs and restaurant meals. These increases were partly offset by lower prices for bakery products and fresh produce. The housing index was also up, mainly reflecting advances in owned and rented accommodation charges, child care expenses and prices of household furnishings. Declines in fuel prices and in long-distance telephone charges dampened these increases. Other notable advances were observed in the costs of non-prescribed medicines and dental care, as well as in reading and recreational expenses and post-secondary tuition fees. Significantly offsetting these advances were declines in gasoline prices and air fares. Prices of personal care supplies also fell. Since September 1987, the all-items index has risen 2.8%.

Charlottetown/Summerside

The all-items index fell 0.2%, reflecting declines in the food, housing and transportation components. The fall in the food index was due to lower prices for fresh produce, pork and beef, offset partially by price increases for chicken, bakery products, soft drinks and restaurant meals. The decline in the housing index mainly reflected lower charges for fuel oil and electricity, as well as lower furniture prices and a decline in long-distance telephone charges. These declines were partly offset by higher charges for rented accommodation and increased child care expenses. The fall in the transportation index was due to lower gasoline prices and a decline in air fares. Other notable declines were observed in the costs of medicinal and pharmaceutical products and home-entertainment equipment. Exerting a notable upward influence were higher clothing prices and increased dental care charges. Advances were also observed in cablevision charges and in post-secondary tuition fees. From September 1987 to September 1988, the all-items index rose 3.9%.

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Halifax

The 0.5% fall in the all-items index was largely due to declines in the food, housing and transportation components. Within food, most of the downward pressure was caused by lower prices for beef and fresh produce. The fall in the housing component reflected decreased charges for owned accommodation and lower prices for fuel oil and furniture. A decline in gasoline prices and air fares caused the transportation index to fall. Partly offsetting these declines were higher prices for men's and women's wear, increased charges for cablevision services and higher post-secondary tuition fees. Between September 1987 and September 1988, the all-items index advanced 4.0%.

Saint John

Increased charges for rented and owned accommodation, higher prices for furniture and household textiles and higher overall food prices (most notably for chicken, bakery products, sugar and soft drinks) explained most of the 0.2% rise in the all-items index. Prices for men's and women's wear also advanced, as did charges for dental care services. The cost of cablevision services rose and post-secondary tuition fees advanced. Exerting a downward impact were lower prices for gasoline and fuel oil and decreased air fares. Long-distance telephone charges also declined. Since September 1987, the all-items index has risen 4.1%.

Quebec City

The all-items index advanced marginally (0.1%). Among the main contributors were higher prices for rented and owned accommodation, increased vehicle rental charges, higher costs for dental care and increased prices for personal care supplies. Advances were also noted in the prices of reading materials, in cablevision fees and in home-entertainment equipment costs. Household textile prices were also up. The food index advanced slightly, as higher prices for chicken, prepared meats, dairy products and fresh fruit more than offset lower prices for beef, pork, fresh vegetables and coffee. Clothing prices fell (particularly for women's wear). Prices for gasoline and air travel also declined, exerting a considerable dampening effect. Between September 1987 and September 1988, the all-items index has risen 3.8%.

Montreal

The all-items index fell marginally (-0.1%), reflecting declines in four of the seven major component indexes. The food index fell mainly due to lower prices for fresh produce, beef, cereal and bakery products, sugar, coffee and tea. The transportation index declined, as a result of lower gasoline prices and a decline in air fares. Clothing prices and the cost of alcoholic beverages purchased from stores also declined. The housing index remained unchanged overall, as lower prices for fuel oil and household furnishings and equipment were offset by higher charges for rented and owned accommodation. Exerting a notable upward impact were higher dental care charges and increased prices for medicinal and pharmaceutical products and for personal care supplies. Advances in cablevision charges and in the cost of reading materials also exerted a notable upward impact. From September 1987 to September 1988, the all-items index has risen 3.9%.

Ottawa

The all-items index fell by a marginal 0.1%, as the food, clothing and transportation indexes all registered declines. Within clothing, most of the downward impact originated from lower prices for women's wear, while in transportation, lower prices for gasoline and decreased air fares explained the downward movement. The food index fell mainly due to lower prices for beef, pork, chicken, cured and prepared meats, bakery products and fresh vegetables. Largely offsetting these declines were increased charges for rented and owned accommodation, higher child care expenses and increased vehicle rental charges. Advances were also noted in dental care charges, in personal care supply costs and in cablevision charges. Post-secondary tuition fees were up, as were the costs of cigarettes and reading materials. From September 1987 to September 1988, the all-items index rose 4.3%.

Toronto

Among the main contributors to the 0.1% rise in the all-items index were higher charges for rented and owned accommodation, increased child care expenses and higher prices for men's wear. Advances in dental care costs, cablevision charges, tuition fees

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and the prices of reading materials also exerted a notable upward impact. The food index declined, reflecting lower prices for pork, prepared meats, cereal products, fresh vegetables and soft drinks. Lower prices for gasoline and decreased air fares exerted a considerable downward influence. Since September 1987, the all-items index has risen 5.1%.

Thunder Bay

Declines in the costs of furniture, household equipment, women's wear and air travel explained a large part of the marginal fall (-0.1%) in the all-items index. Largely offsetting these declines were increased charges for rented and owned accommodation, household textiles, cablevision services and post-secondary education. Prices for men's wear and for clothing materials also advanced. The food index was up overall, as higher prices for prepared meats, eggs, coffee, soft drinks and restaurant meals more than offset lower prices for beef, cereal products, fresh vegetables and sugar. Since September 1987, the all-items index has risen 4.3%.

Winnipeg

Higher prices for cigarettes, increased rented and owned accommodation charges and higher tuition fees for post-secondary education explained most of the 0.4% rise in the all-items index. Advances were also observed in the prices of furniture, gasoline, home entertainment equipment and men's wear. Air fares declined, as did overall food prices, the latter mainly due to lower prices for fresh fruit and vegetables. Since September 1987, the all-items index has risen 4.7%.

Regina

Declines in gasoline prices, air fares and clothing prices (particularly for women's wear) accounted for a large part of the 0.4% fall in the all-items index. Recreational charges also declined, as did the prices of cigarettes and alcoholic beverages. Moderating these declines were higher charges for rented and owned accommodation and increased prices for household textiles and equipment. Prices for reading materials, non-prescribed medicines and personal care supplies also advanced. The food index remained unchanged overall, as higher prices for beef, chicken, coffee and soft drinks were offset by lower prices for fresh fruit and vegetables. Between September 1987 and September 1988, the all-items index rose 3.2%.

Saskatoon

The all-items index fell marginally (-0.1%), due mainly to declines in the transportation and food components. Within transportation, most of the downward impact originated from lower gasoline prices and decreased air fares (partially offset by higher vehicle rental costs). The decline in the food index was largely due to lower prices for fresh produce, soft drinks and beef (prices for pork, chicken, fish and bakery products advanced). Prices for furniture, alcoholic beverages and long-distance telephone calls also declined. Largely offsetting these declines were higher charges for rented and owned accommodation, increased fees for post-secondary education and higher prices for reading materials and home-entertainment equipment. Price advances were also noted for prescribed medicines, child care services and household textiles. Since September 1987, the all-items index has risen 3.2%.

Edmonton

Advances in food prices, vehicle rental charges and gasoline, combined with higher fees for cablevision services and for post-secondary education explained a large part of the marginal 0.1% rise in the all-items index. Within food, higher prices were noted for fresh produce, dairy products, eggs and restaurant meals. Higher charges for rented accommodation, child care and household textiles also had a notable upward influence. Prices for reading materials, non-prescribed medicines and personal care supplies were also up. Air fares declined, exerting a notable downward effect. Charges for owned accommodation were down, as was the cost of long-distance telephone service. Prices for furniture and household equipment also fell. Since September 1987, the all-items index has risen 1.8%.

Calgary

The all-items index rose by a marginal 0.1%, with most of the upward impact originating in the food, housing and clothing components. Within food, higher prices were observed for chicken, beef, bread, fresh fruit and soft drinks. Higher charges for rented and owned accommodation, as well as increased child care expenses and higher prices for household equipment explained the advance in the

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housing index. The rise in the clothing index reflected higher prices for men's and women's wear. Other notable advances were observed in charges for cablevision services, in the cost of reading materials and in post-secondary tuition fees. The transportation index fell, exerting a notable downward effect. The decline was the result of lower air fares which were only partly offset by higher gasoline prices and increased charges for the rental of automotive vehicles. Since September 1987, the all-items index has risen 2.3%.

Vancouver

Higher food prices and increased transportation costs were among the main contributing factors in the 0.5% rise in the all-items index. The rise in the food index was largely due to higher prices for chicken, fresh fruit and restaurant meals. The transportation index was up, as a result of higher gasoline prices and increased vehicle rental costs. Higher fees were noted for cablevision services and for post-secondary education. Cigarette prices were also up. The housing component remained unchanged overall, as higher charges for rented and owned accommodation and increased child care expenses were offset by lower prices for furniture, household equipment, and long-distance telephone services. From September 1987 to September 1988, the all-items index rose 3.7%.

Victoria

Advances in housing charges (particularly for rented and owned accommodation, child care and furniture) combined with increases in post-secondary tuition fees and higher charges for cablevision services explained a large part of the 0.3% rise in the all-items index. The costs of personal care supplies, cigarette prices and vehicle rental charges were also up. The food index advanced overall, largely due to higher prices for chicken, eggs, dairy products, bakery products, fresh vegetables, soft drinks and restaurant meals. Prices for fresh fruit and beef declined. Declines in gasoline prices, air fares, cigarette prices and long-distance telephone charges had a dampening effect. Since September 1987, the all-items index has risen 4.4%.

(see tables on next page)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1922-1940.

The September 1988 issue of *The Consumer Price Index* (62-001, \$8.50/\$85) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606), Prices Division.

Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.¹

	All-items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and Personal Care	Recreation Reading and Education	Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages
St. John's								
Sept. 1988 index	139.3	125.5	139.5	136.6	136.0	143.3	143.5	189.7
% change from August 1988	0.0	0.2	0.1	-0.1	-0.9	0.0	0.8	0.1
% change from September 1987	2.8	3.5	3.4	2.8	-0.8	2.2	5.1	4.1
Charlottetown/Summerside								
Sept. 1988 index	137.5	129.7	133.2	125.8	132.4	150.7	150.9	203.0
% change from August 1988	-0.2	-0.5	-0.2	0.8	-1.3	0.0	1.1	0.0
% change from September 1987	3.9	4.6	3.3	4.1	-0.4	4.9	6.0	9.6
Halifax								
Sept. 1988 index	142.0	131.5	141.0	127.9	139.0	153.7	152.1	199.9
% change from August 1988	-0.5	-0.9	-0.6	0.9	-1.3	0.3	0.4	0.0
% change from September 1987	4.0	9.4	2.5	4.8	1.4	5.6	5.1	3.5
Saint John								
Sept. 1988 index	142.7	133.4	145.2	128.0	135.6	143.0	151.6	207.9
% change from August 1988	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.7	-0.9	0.6	1.0	0.0
% change from September 1987	4.1	3.2	3.2	5.3	2.0	4.1	5.9	11.7
Quebec City								
Sept. 1988 index	145.7	139.4	149.3	131.0	141.0	148.5	135.6	196.1
% change from August 1988	0.1	0.1	0.5	-0.8	-0.4	0.7	0.7	-0.2
% change from September 1987	3.8	5.7	4.3	3.3	0.2	3.6	4.5	4.1
Montreal								
Sept. 1988 index	146.7	140.4	149.9	129.6	145.1	146.7	141.4	196.3
% change from August 1988	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.5	-0.7	1.2	0.8	-0.2
% change from September 1987	3.9	4.8	4.8	3.1	1.0	3.8	4.4	3.9
Ottawa								
Sept. 1988 index	145.7	131.7	149.1	132.9	146.6	152.7	146.2	197.5
% change from August 1988	-0.1	-0.1	0.3	-0.4	-1.4	1.7	0.6	0.0
% change from September 1987	4.3	2.6	4.2	4.9	2.1	7.1	6.2	9.8
Toronto								
Sept. 1988 index	151.0	142.7	155.1	136.6	146.9	150.6	150.0	200.0
% change from August 1988	0.1	-0.6	0.7	0.1	-1.4	0.3	1.4	-0.3
% change from September 1987	5.1	4.8	6.1	5.9	-0.1	4.3	6.9	10.0
Thunder Bay								
Sept. 1988 index	144.0	135.8	140.9	130.8	146.8	147.4	146.9	194.4
% change from August 1988	-0.1	0.2	-0.4	0.2	-1.0	0.4	1.0	0.1
% change from September 1987	4.3	3.5	3.6	6.0	2.3	3.3	7.0	9.8
Winnipeg								
Sept. 1988 index	143.6	129.4	144.8	131.1	139.9	143.4	152.5	217.9
% change from August 1988	0.4	-0.2	0.6	0.4	-0.8	-0.3	1.7	3.0
% change from September 1987	4.7	3.7	4.5	5.5	3.6	6.1	5.8	8.6

Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres (concluded)

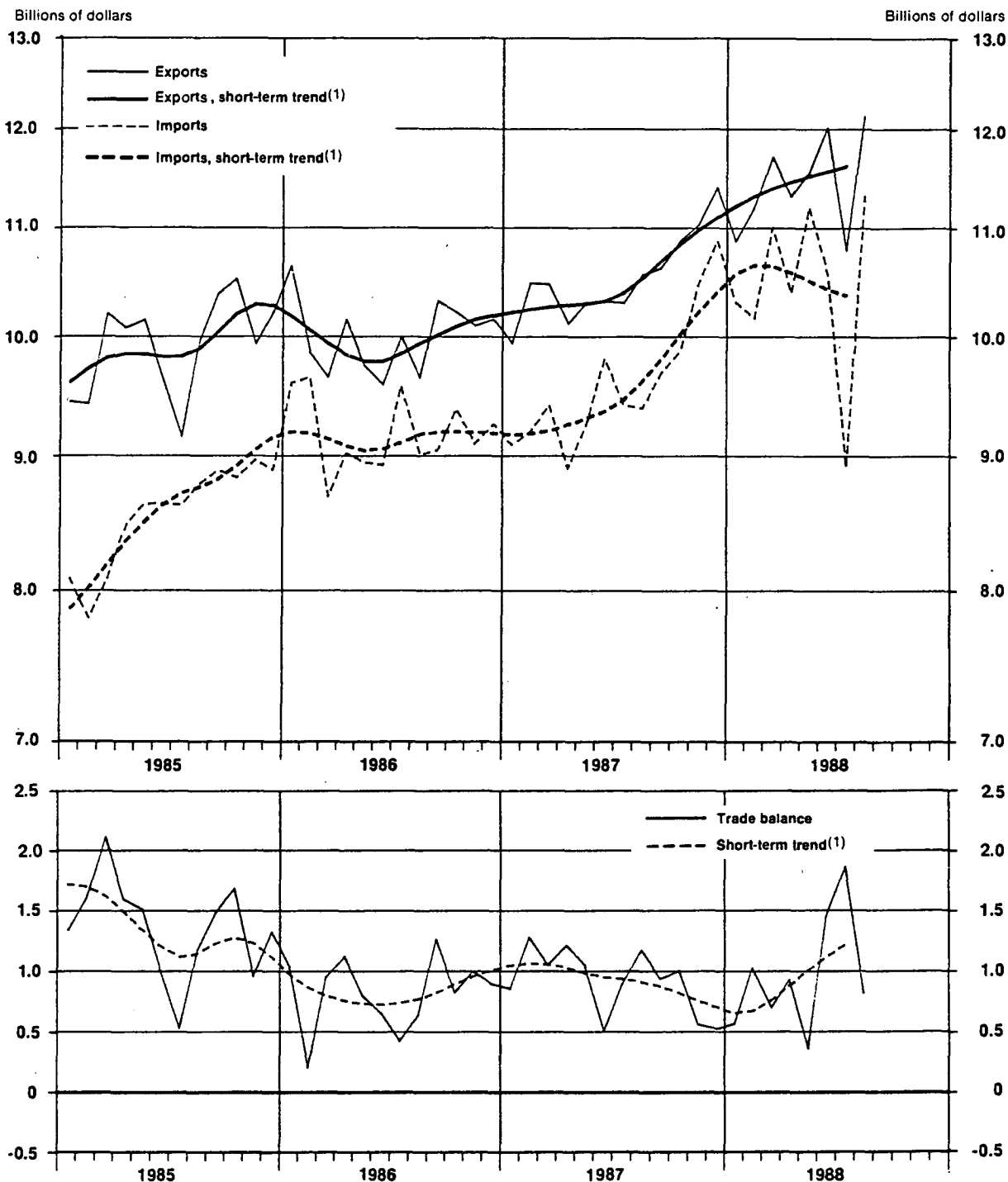
The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.¹

	All-items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and Personal Care	Recreation Reading and Education	Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages
Regina								
Sept. 1988 index	140.5	128.9	143.6	127.2	128.6	168.6	146.0	194.2
% change from August 1988	-0.4	0.0	0.3	-0.2	-2.9	0.4	-0.1	-0.3
% change from September 1987	3.2	3.5	3.1	4.7	1.7	1.0	3.4	6.1
Saskatoon								
Sept. 1988 index	142.2	129.2	143.8	131.2	131.9	174.1	148.5	188.8
% change from August 1988	-0.1	-1.0	0.5	0.0	-1.6	0.2	1.0	-0.2
% change from September 1987	3.2	2.1	3.9	5.0	0.2	1.5	5.2	5.5
Edmonton								
Sept. 1988 index	138.0	137.8	127.8	128.4	138.4	145.1	146.0	215.9
% change from August 1988	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.0
% change from September 1987	1.8	2.2	2.0	4.4	-3.6	3.1	6.0	3.8
Calgary								
Sept. 1988 index	136.8	136.3	126.6	125.2	138.0	151.1	144.2	210.6
% change from August 1988	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.6	-1.1	0.0	0.5	-0.1
% change from September 1987	2.3	4.0	2.2	5.0	-3.8	5.0	4.7	3.6
Vancouver								
Sept. 1988 index	139.3	135.9	131.3	130.1	143.7	138.5	152.8	191.3
% change from August 1988	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.3	1.3	0.3	0.9	0.9
% change from September 1987	3.7	3.8	3.5	4.9	0.8	3.6	4.9	10.1
Victoria²								
Sept. 1988 index	111.6	113.0	105.0	111.8	109.7	113.9	120.7	138.6
% change from August 1988	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.1	-1.0	1.1	1.0	0.1
% change from September 1987	4.4	4.6	3.7	4.7	1.1	6.6	5.9	10.0

¹ For inter-city indexes of retail price differentials, refer to Table 22 of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes (62-010, \$16.50/\$66).

² December 1984 = 100.

**Imports, Exports, and Trade Balance, All Countries, Seasonally Adjusted
Balance of Payments Basis**



(1) The short-term trend gives a clearer picture of the direction and rate of change of trade by averaging the substantial monthly fluctuations which frequently occur in trade. The trend for the last month is not shown in the charts above since it frequently changes significantly with the addition of succeeding months of data.

**Preliminary Statement of Canadian
International Trade
Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments
Basis
August 1988**

Month-to-month Overview

On a balance of payments basis and adjusted for seasonal fluctuations, Canada posted an international merchandise trade surplus in August of \$813 million. This surplus, down more than \$1 billion from the level recorded the previous month, brings Canada's cumulative trade surplus for the first eight months of 1988 to \$7.7 billion, slightly lower than the level of \$8.0 billion recorded during the same period of 1987.

The fall in the trade surplus between July and August was caused primarily by a larger rise in imports than exports. Canada's unusually large trade surplus of \$2 billion with the United States in July dropped back to \$1.0 billion in August. With the exception of July, Canada's monthly surplus with the United States has fluctuated between \$1.0 billion and \$1.5 billion in 1988.

Sharply higher exports in August of passenger automobiles and metals and alloys boosted total exports to a new record high of \$12.1 billion, up \$1.3 billion from July and \$114 million from June. The decrease recorded in July was primarily attributable to the slowdown in Canadian production of automobiles. Faster growth of the U.S. economy in August - as indicated by the 0.4% increase in the leading economic indicator, following a drop of 0.6% in July - probably contributed to stronger U.S. demand for Canadian products.

Imports in August totalled \$11.3 billion, a marked increase over the level of \$8.9 billion recorded in July. Increased retail sales of imported automobiles in Canada undoubtedly contributed to the increase of more than \$400 million in automobile imports in August, while the resumption of Canadian automotive production boosted imports of parts by more than \$700 million. Imports of machinery and equipment, a sign of the vitality of the Canadian economy, increased by \$756 million, regaining the ground lost in July.

The absence of major upward revisions to the July trade figures indicates that the sharp drop in July did indeed reflect a substantial decline in international trade. It should be recalled that in July orders and deliveries of Canadian businesses posted declines, while production remained flat.

Note to Users

With the introduction of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System which represents a major departure from the previous commodity classification and starting with January 1988 and at least for the balance of 1988:

- Users should interpret levels and month-to-month movements in commodity data with caution;
- Revisions to imports and exports have been greater than usual but should settle down to more normal levels in the months to come.

Users should also note as a further caution to interpretation of 1988 data as related to 1987 that:

- Recording of imports is now based on the date the merchandise is released by customs and not on the customs stamp date, as before January 1988.

In order to maintain continuity in concepts and definitions:

- The balance of payments data continue to be presented on a consignment basis.
- Both raw and seasonally adjusted data for the previous periods reflect the above changes where applicable.

Short-term Trend (excludes latest month)

The monthly movements shown for the short-term trend may differ from those shown for seasonally adjusted values published in other sections of this report. The short-term trend is the result of a weighted moving average of 13 terms, and it is therefore possible that the seasonally adjusted values may not point in the same direction as the short-term trend.

Exports

The short-term trend for exports posted an increase in July for the sixteenth consecutive month, rising 0.5% from the previous month. This is a slight acceleration in the rate of increase of the trend, from the June level of 0.4%.

(continued on next page)

- The largest gains in July were recorded in the trend for exports of metals and alloys (notably precious metals and aluminum), wood pulp and trucks.
- The trend for exports of wood pulp has remained up since August 1987 and increased sharply between February and July 1988, rising gradually from 0.4% to 3.6%.
- The trend for exports of passenger automobiles, which fell 0.2% in June, rose 0.3% in July.
- The strong upward trend for wheat exports recorded in early 1988 has declined substantially, falling from a peak of 9.1% in January to 0.4% in July.
- The largest declines were recorded for exports of motor vehicle parts, energy products and machinery and equipment other than those indicated by the breakdown by summary category.

Imports

The short-term trend for imports was down in July for the fifth straight month, declining 0.4% from the previous month. This rate of decline is slightly lower than the 0.6% decrease recorded in June.

- The largest declines were recorded in imports of motor vehicle parts, crude petroleum and industrial goods other than those listed in the breakdown.
- The largest increases were recorded in the trend for imports of energy products other than those listed in the breakdown by summary category, passenger automobiles and agricultural and fishing products.
- The downward trend for imports of industrial and agricultural machinery continued in July, with a decrease of 0.2%.
- The trend for imports of passenger automobiles, down between November 1987 and June 1988, recovered in July, showing a slight increase of 0.6%.

Analysis by Commodities and Trading Partners

Commodities

While international merchandise trade statistics for July showed a general decline, with 44 of a total of 61 merchandise import categories and 50 of a total of 62 merchandise export categories showing decreases, the data for August indicate a marked recovery and a return to the levels which preceded the July drop. Thus, 42 merchandise export categories and 52 merchandise import categories posted gains over the previous month.

- Exports of passenger automobiles and precious metals posted large increases in August over the average for the first seven months of 1988. Exports of automobiles totalled \$1.7 billion (a new record), while exports of precious metals totalled \$366 million.
- Cumulative wheat exports in 1988 totalled \$3.2 billion, or approximately \$1 billion more than during the same period of last year. In August, wheat exports totalled \$425 million.
- Compared to the average for the first seven months of 1988, exports of motor vehicle parts posted a decline of \$91 million, while imports of parts increased by \$151 million. As a result of these movements, Canada's deficit in motor vehicle parts trade rose sharply to \$817 million from \$103 million in July.
- Exports of crude petroleum fell in August from July to a total of \$331 million, reflecting a decrease in the quantity exported and a slight decline in the average price per barrel from \$16.17 in July to \$16.00 in August. This is the second consecutive decrease in exports of crude petroleum.
- Stimulated by carmakers' incentive programs, retail sales of passenger automobiles rebounded in August, resulting in a substantial increase in automobile imports to a total of \$1.3 billion. These increases bring the cumulative total for the first eight months of 1988 to \$7.9 billion, or virtually the same level as for the corresponding period last year.

(continued on next page)

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- Imports of finished products, excluding automotive products, which dropped sharply in July to \$3.8 billion, rose in August to \$4.7 billion.
 - Imports from Japan rose to \$608 million, up sharply from the preceding month, but still \$57 million lower than the average level for the first seven months of 1988.

(see tables on following pages)

Trading Partners

- Exports to the United States totalled \$9.0 billion, compared to \$8.0 billion in July and an average of \$8.4 billion for the first seven months of 1988.
- Canadian exports to the United Kingdom totalled \$2.3 billion for the first eight months of 1988, or more than half of exports to other EEC member countries (\$4.5 billion).
- Imports from the United States totalled \$8.0 billion, bringing the cumulative total to \$57.5 billion for the first eight months of 1988.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3686-3713, 3718, 3719 and 3887-3913.

The August 1988 issue of *Canadian International Trade (H.S. Based)* (65-001, \$16.50/\$165) will be available the first week of November. For summary information, available the day of release, order the *Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade (H.S. Based)* (65-001P, \$5.50/\$55). See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), Trade Information Unit, or Jean-Pierre Simard (613-951-1711) (for analysis information), or John Butterill (613-951-4808) (for price-index information), Trade Measures and Analysis Section, International Trade Division.

Table 1
Merchandise Trade of Canada
August 1988

	Customs Basis				Balance of Payment Basis					
	Exports ¹ raw	Imports raw	Exports ¹ raw	Imports raw	Exports ¹ S.A. ³	Imports S.A. ³	Balance S.A. ³	Period-to-period change ²		
								Exports ¹ S.A. ³	Imports S.A. ³	Balance S.A. ³
				\$ millions				%	%	\$ millions
1982	84,530	67,856	84,393	66,739	84,393	66,738	17,654	0.0	-13.5	10,362
1983	90,613	75,520	90,556	73,098	90,556	73,098	17,457	7.3	9.5	-197
1984	112,384	95,460	111,330	91,493	111,330	91,492	19,838	22.9	25.2	2,381
1985	119,474	104,355	119,070	102,669	119,070	102,669	16,400	7.0	12.2	-3,437
1986	120,670	112,511	119,889	110,079	119,889	110,079	9,810	0.7	7.2	-6,590
1987	125,087	116,239	126,125	115,149	126,125	115,149	10,976	5.2	4.6	1,166
1986										
I quarter	29,171	27,666	29,372	26,924	30,106	27,913	2,193	-1.8	4.6	-1,786
II quarter	31,283	29,637	31,020	28,949	29,451	26,872	2,578	-2.2	-3.7	385
III quarter	28,431	27,284	28,341	26,697	29,923	27,598	2,326	1.6	2.7	-253
IV quarter	31,785	27,924	31,156	27,509	30,409	27,696	2,713	1.6	0.4	388
1987										
I quarter	29,714	27,776	30,278	27,346	30,833	27,662	3,171	1.4	-0.1	457
II quarter	31,687	29,578	31,832	29,326	30,668	27,915	2,752	-0.5	0.9	-418
III quarter	29,628	27,814	30,071	27,472	31,407	28,419	2,988	2.4	1.8	236
IV quarter	34,057	31,071	33,944	31,005	33,217	31,153	2,065	5.8	9.6	-924
1988										
I quarter	33,926	35,027	33,337	32,340	33,671	31,394	2,277	1.4	0.8	212
II quarter	36,169	33,484	36,286	32,978	34,781	32,059	2,722	3.3	2.1	445
1987										
January	9,154	8,767	9,353	8,487	9,924	9,074	850	-2.1	-1.8	-41
February	9,889	8,974	10,074	9,001	10,460	9,185	1,274	5.4	1.2	424
March	10,671	10,034	10,851	9,858	10,449	9,403	1,046	-0.1	2.4	-229
April	10,223	9,407	10,334	9,310	10,090	8,882	1,208	-3.4	-5.5	162
May	10,658	9,493	10,589	9,432	10,285	9,242	1,043	1.9	4.0	-164
June	10,807	10,678	10,909	10,585	10,293	9,791	502	0.1	5.9	-542
July	9,528	9,508	9,635	9,476	10,280	9,391	889	-0.1	-4.1	388
August	9,362	8,560	9,564	8,496	10,532	9,364	1,168	2.4	-0.3	278
September	10,738	9,747	10,872	9,500	10,595	9,664	931	0.6	3.2	-237
October	11,336	10,138	11,343	10,073	10,850	9,853	997	2.4	1.9	66
November	11,513	10,622	11,382	10,670	11,003	10,452	551	1.4	6.1	-446
December	11,207	10,311	11,220	10,262	11,365	10,848	517	3.3	3.8	-34
1988										
January	10,269	12,332	10,153	9,989	10,840	10,277	564	-4.6	-5.3	47
February	11,204	10,467	10,937	10,262	11,158	10,137	1,021	2.9	-1.4	457
March	12,454	12,229	12,247	12,089	11,673	10,980	693	4.6	8.3	-328
April	11,382	10,613	11,421	10,451	11,277	10,356	921	-3.4	-5.7	229
May	12,028	11,633	12,066	11,417	11,524	11,171	353	2.2	7.9	-568
June	12,758	11,238	12,800	11,111	11,980	10,532	1,447	3.9	-5.7	1,094
July	9,572	8,791	9,839	8,816	10,749	8,887	1,862	-10.3	-15.6	415
August	10,751	10,650	10,942	10,415	12,094	11,281	813	12.5	26.9	-1,049
Year-to-date										
1987	80,292	75,421	81,309	74,644	82,312	74,332	7,980	4.0	1.3	2,147
1988	90,417	87,952	90,404	84,549	91,295	83,622	7,673	10.9	12.5	-307

¹ Exports = Domestic Exports + Re-exports.

² Year-to-year, quarter-to-quarter, month-to-month.

³ Seasonally Adjusted.

Note: - Due to truncation, monthly data may not add up to quarterly data and quarterly data may not add up to annual data.
- The 1986 and 1987 figures include the final revisions.

Table 2
Merchandise Trade by Principal Trading Areas
August 1988
Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis

			Period-to-period change				Year-to-date	Change over previous year	
	July	Aug.	July	Aug.	July	Aug.			
	\$ millions		%	%	\$ millions		\$ millions	%	\$ millions
Exports to:¹									
United States	8,019.6	9,001.3	-7.3	12.2	-635.8	981.7	67,954.9	7.5	4,758.5
United Kingdom	280.6	354.3	-16.9	26.2	-57.1	73.6	2,346.3	15.5	314.7
Japan	593.9	731.3	-32.5	23.1	-285.5	137.3	5,393.7	29.5	1,227.6
EEC '86 excl. UK	559.9	619.5	-0.7	10.7	-3.9	59.6	4,538.1	9.9	410.6
Other OECD '86	223.9	230.1	-23.1	2.8	-67.2	6.2	1,950.2	18.8	309.2
Other Countries	1,071.4	1,157.5	-14.4	8.0	-180.5	86.1	9,111.6	27.4	1,961.9
Total	10,749.4	12,093.9	-10.3	12.5	-1,230.2	1,344.5	91,294.7	10.9	8,982.5
Imports from:¹									
United States	5,857.7	7,992.7	-18.3	36.4	-1,316.4	2,135.0	57,465.2	12.6	6,429.8
United Kingdom	370.0	390.2	-18.9	5.5	-86.4	20.2	3,260.2	8.7	262.0
Japan	526.0	608.2	-23.5	15.6	-161.4	82.2	5,267.0	8.5	411.4
EEC '86 excl. UK	741.5	845.1	-7.5	14.0	-60.5	103.6	6,886.6	16.1	956.2
Other OECD '86	278.5	268.3	-17.0	-3.7	-57.1	-10.2	2,345.8	14.5	297.0
Other Countries	1,113.8	1,176.7	3.4	5.6	36.9	62.9	8,396.8	12.5	933.4
Total	8,887.5	11,281.2	-15.6	26.9	-1,644.7	2,393.7	83,621.6	12.5	9,289.7
Balance with:									
United States	2,161.9	1,008.5			680.5	-1,153.4	10,489.6		-1,671.3
United Kingdom	-89.4	-35.9			29.3	53.4	-913.9		52.8
Japan	68.0	123.1			-124.2	55.1	126.6		816.2
EEC '86 excl. UK	-181.7	-225.6			56.6	-44.0	-2,348.5		-545.6
Other OECD '86	-54.6	-38.2			-10.2	16.4	-395.6		12.2
Other Countries	-42.4	-19.2			-217.5	23.1	714.9		1,028.5
Total	1,861.9	812.7			414.6	-1,049.2	7,673.1		-307.2

¹ Exports to "Other OECD Countries" and imports from the United Kingdom, "Other OECD Countries" and "Other Countries" do not have seasonality. Consequently, these series are not seasonally adjusted.

Note: - Portugal and Spain are included in the EEC.

- Imports for August 1988 by country of origin from the United States (including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) amounted to \$6,838.8 million. This represents the starting figure from which the Canada/United States reconciliation takes place.

Data Availability Announcements

Housing Starts

August 1988

Highlights

Total (all areas)

- Seasonally adjusted at annual rates, housing starts for August rebounded to a level of 249,000 units from a revised level of 211,000 in July, an increase of 18%.
- The multiple dwelling sector and to a lesser degree the single dwelling sector were responsible for this increase.

Urban Centres (10,000 population and over)

- After two consecutive drops, starts in the multiple housing sector recovered in August, posting a 45% increase over July.
- On a regional basis, all regions recorded substantial increases except the Prairies where dwelling starts have levelled off since June.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 25, 29, 4091 and 4092.

The August 1988 issue of *Housing Starts and Completions* (64-002, \$16.50/\$165) is scheduled for release the first week of November. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact M. Lavigne (613-951-2583), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

Fruit and Vegetable Production

1987/88

The most recent updates to production and value of fruits and vegetables in Canada are now available. Also available are 1987 tobacco data, and updates to 1987 mushroom data. Information on 1987 area, yield and production of potatoes as well as 1988 seeded area of potatoes are included in this release.

Intercensal revisions to vegetable statistics for the period 1981-1986 are now available on CANSIM.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1044, 1371-1395, 1397-1407, 5611, 5614-5620, 5623, 5624 and 5627.

The October issue of *Fruit and Vegetable Production* (22-003, \$16.50/\$66) will be available in late October. See "How to Order Publications".

For further detailed information on this release, contact L.D. Kemp (613-951-8727), Agriculture Division.

The Dairy Review

August 1988

In August 1988, creamery butter production in Canada totalled 8 349 tonnes, an increase of 13.4% compared to August 1987. The August 1988 production of cheddar cheese in Canada amounted to 10 111 tonnes, an increase of 0.6% compared to August 1987.

An estimated 682 841 kilolitres of milk were sold off Canadian farms for all purposes in July 1988, an increase of 4.5% over July 1987. This brought the total estimate of milk sold off farms during the first seven months of 1988 to 4 541 429 kilolitres, an increase of 3.5% over the January-July period a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3428, 5632-5638, 5650-5661, 5664-5667 and 5673.

The August 1988 issue of *The Dairy Review* (23-001, \$11/\$110) is scheduled for release on October 31. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Construction Type Plywood

August 1988

Canadian firms produced 165 498 cubic metres (187,025,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) of construction type plywood during August 1988, a decrease of 5.1% from the 174 410 cubic metres (197,096,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) produced during August 1987.

January to August 1988 production totalled 1 434 339 cubic metres (1,620,905,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis), a decrease of 2.7% from the 1 474 012 cubic metres (1,665,738,000 square feet, 3/8-inch basis) produced during the same period in 1987.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).

The August 1988 issue of *Construction Type Plywood* (35-001, \$4.50/\$45) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Jock Dobie (604-666-2671), Pacific Region, Statistics Canada, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3C9.

Export and Import Price Indexes

August 1988

Current and fixed weighted export and import price indexes, on a balance of payments (1981 = 100) basis, are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1981 to August 1988 for the five commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3633, 3635, 3636 and 3638.

Customs based current and fixed weighted U.S. price indexes are also available. Price indexes are listed from January 1981 to August 1988 on a 1981 = 100 basis. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 "All Countries" and "U.S. Only" SITC section indexes.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3639-3642.

The August 1988 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade (H.S. Based)* (65-001, \$16.50/\$165) will be available the first week of November. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact John Butterill (613-951-4808), Price Index Unit, International Trade Division.

Man-made Fibre and Filament Yarn Industry

1986 Census of Manufactures

In 1986, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the man-made fibre and filament yarn industry (SIC 1811) totalled \$847.5 million, up 8.7% from \$779.4 million in 1985.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5425.

Data for the industry will be published at a later date (34-250B 1811, \$4). See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Don Grant (613-951-3510), Industry Division.

Agricultural Implement Industry

1986 Census of Manufactures

In 1986, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the agricultural implement industry (SIC 3111) totalled \$783.1 million, down 3.1% from \$808.6 million in 1985.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5541.

Data for the industry will be published at a later date (42-250B 3111, \$4). See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact W.L. Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division.

Compressor, Pump and Industrial Fan Industry

1986 Census of Manufactures

In 1986, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the compressor, pump and industrial fan industry (SIC 3191) totalled \$430.6 million, up 0.03% from \$430.5 million in 1985.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5543.

Data for the industry will be published at a later date (42-250B 3191, \$4). See "How to Order Publications".

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

Motor Vehicle Wheel and Brake Industry

1986 Census of Manufactures

In 1986, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the motor vehicle wheel and brake industry (SIC 3255) totalled \$924.7 million, down 6.8% from \$992.1 million in 1985.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5559.

Data for the industry will be published at a later date (42-251B 3255, \$4). See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact G.W. Barrett (613-951-3515), Industry Division.

Electronic Parts and Components Industry

1986 Census of Manufactures

In 1986, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the electronic parts and components industry (SIC 3352) totalled \$785.2 million, up 12.7% from \$696.6 million in 1985.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5575.

Data for the industry will be published at a later date (43-250B 3352, \$4). See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact W.L. Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division.

Electronic Computing and Peripheral Equipment Industry

1986 Census of Manufactures

In 1986, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the electronic computing and peripheral industry (SIC 3361) totalled \$1,504.5 million, down 1.3% from \$1,523.8 million in 1985.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5577.

Data for the industry will be published at a later date (43-250B 3361, \$4). See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact W.L. Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division.

Publications Released

Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, July 1988.
Catalogue number 35-003
(Canada: \$6.50/\$65; Other Countries: \$7.50/\$75).

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, August 1988.
Catalogue number 65-001P
(Canada: \$5.50/\$55; Other Countries: \$6.50/\$65).

Profiles, Census Divisions and Subdivisions, Alberta: Part 2, 1986 Census.
Catalogue number 94-118
(Canada: \$60; Other Countries: \$70).

How to Order Publications

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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.

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The Daily, October 14, 1988

Week of October 17 - 21

(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date of release	Title	Reference period
October		
17	Travel Between Canada and Other Countries	August 1988
20	Retail Trade	August 1988
21	Department Store Sales and Stocks	August 1988