

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, November 4, 1988

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Major Releases

Labour Force Survey, October 1988

- The unemployment rate rose 0.1 to 7.9.

2

Household Facilities and Equipment, May 1988

4

- Videocassette recorders and microwave ovens are now found in more than half of all Canadian homes.

Quarterly Business Conditions Survey, Canadian Manufacturing Industries, October 1988

5

- Canadian manufacturers' opinions on the level of finished product inventory improved substantially between the July and October 1988 surveys although there was increased concern about the backlog of unfilled orders.

Farm Input Price Index, Third Quarter 1988

8

- The Farm Input Price Index declined 0.1% from the previous quarter.

Data Availability Announcements

Sawmills East of the Rockies, August 1988

10

Production and Value of Honey and Maple Products, 1987-88

10

Census of Manufactures, 1986:

Other Commercial Printing Industry

10

Turbine and Mechanical Power Transmission Equipment Industry

10

Motor Vehicle Plastic Parts Industry

11

Electrical Switchgear and Protective Equipment Industry

11

Other Electrical Industrial Equipment Industries

11

Other Electrical Products Industries, n.e.c.

11

Publications Released

12

Major Release Dates, November 7-10

13



Major Releases

Labour Force Survey

October 1988

Overview

Estimates from Statistics Canada's October 1988 Labour Force Survey show little overall change in the labour market since May. Employment remained virtually unchanged this month, while unemployment increased slightly. The unemployment rate rose to 7.9 (+0.1), comparable to the rates recorded since the beginning of the year.

Employment

For the week ended October 15, 1988, the seasonally adjusted level of employment was estimated at 12,379,000 - little changed from September 1988 (+4,000).

- The seasonally adjusted estimate of employment increased by 31,000 among persons aged 25 and over, with this increase largely attributable to women in this age group (+28,000). Employment fell by 27,000 among young people aged 15 to 24.
- Full-time employment increased by 32,000 - while part-time employment decreased by 5,000.
- Estimated employment, adjusted for seasonal variations, increased in transportation, communications and other utilities (+15,000) and in community, business and personal services (+45,000). Employment decreased in construction (-31,000) and in finance, insurance and real estate (-24,000). There was little or no change in the other industries.
- The estimated level of employment advanced by 5,000 in Newfoundland, by 8,000 in New Brunswick and by 10,000 in British Columbia. There was little or no change in the other provinces.

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted level of unemployment was estimated at 1,061,000 in October 1988, up 13,000 from September, edging the unemployment rate up to 7.9 (+0.1).

- Unemployment among men aged 25 and over increased by 19,000, while it decreased by 8,000 among women in this age group. Unemployment among young people aged 15 to 24 showed little change from September.
- The unemployment rate for men rose by 0.3, to 7.7, the highest rate recorded this year, while the unemployment rate for women fell by 0.2, to 8.1.
- The estimated number of unemployed increased by 24,000 in Quebec and by 8,000 in Alberta. It decreased by 2,000 in Newfoundland and by 9,000 in British Columbia while there was little or no change in the other provinces.
- The unemployment rate increased by 0.3 in Prince Edward Island (13.1), 0.7 in Quebec (9.9), 0.1 in Saskatchewan (7.6) and 0.6 in Alberta (8.2). It decreased by 1.0 in Newfoundland (16.5), 0.1 in Nova Scotia (10.7), 0.6 in New Brunswick (12.1), 0.2 in Manitoba (8.5), 0.6 in British Columbia (10.1) while it remained unchanged at 5.0 in Ontario.

Participation Rate/Employment Ratio

The participation rate remained unchanged at 66.7, while the employment/population ratio edged down 0.1 to 61.4 after remaining steady at 61.5 for four months.

- The participation rate declined by 0.5 among young people aged 15 to 24, while among persons aged 25 and over it rose by 0.2, to 66.1.
- The employment/population ratio among those aged 15 to 24 declined by 0.6, to 60.6.

Changes Since October 1987 (unadjusted estimates)

- Estimated employment was 12,437,000 - an increase of 275,000 (+2.3%).
- Full-time employment increased by 197,000 (+1.9%), to 10,481,000 while part-time employment increased by 78,000 (+4.2%) to 1,956,000.

(continued on page 3)

- Employment increased by 2.5% in the goods-producing industries, led by construction (4.8%). The service-producing industries posted an overall advance of 2.2%, attributable to the 5.2% increase recorded in community, business and personal services.
- The estimated number of unemployed declined by 37,000 (-3.7%) to 963,000.
- The unemployment rate declined by 0.4 since last October, to 7.2.
- The participation rate increased by 0.4, to 66.5 and the employment/population ratio rose by 0.6 to 61.7.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2074, 2075, 2078-2099, 2101-2107 and table 00799999.

The October 1988 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001; \$22/\$220) will be available the third week of November. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Ken Bennett (613-951-4720), Household Surveys Division.

For summary information, available on the day of release, order *Labour Force Information* (71-001P, \$5.50/\$55).

Labour Force Characteristics, Canada

	October 1988	September 1988	October 1987
Seasonally Adjusted Data			
Labour Force (,000)	13,440	13,423	13,207
Employment (,000)	12,379	12,375	12,100
Unemployment (,000)	1,061	1,048	1,107
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.9	7.8	8.4
Participation Rate (%)	66.7	66.7	66.4
Employment/Population Ratio (%)	61.4	61.5	60.8
Unadjusted Data			
Labour Force (,000)	13,400	13,406	13,162
Employment (,000)	12,437	12,445	12,162
Unemployment (,000)	963	960	1,000
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.2	7.2	7.6
Participation Rate (%)	66.5	66.6	66.1
Employment/Population Ratio (%)	61.7	61.8	61.1

Household Facilities and Equipment

May 1988

Labour-saving and leisure-time consumer durables continue to increase in popularity, led by video cassette recorders (VCRs) and microwave ovens which are now found in more than one-half of Canadian homes. In 1988, 52% of households have a VCR, up from 45.2% in 1987 and 35.4% just two years ago. Similarly, 53.8% of households are equipped with a microwave oven, up from 43.3% in 1987 and 33.7% in 1986.

Other highlights from the report, *Household Facilities and Equipment*, now available, include:

- Colour televisions, VCRs, microwave ovens, dishwashers and vehicles (automobiles, vans and trucks) are each found in more than 50% of households. Some 23.8% of households have all these items and only 2.0% have none of them. In Alberta, one-third of households have all of these items compared to one in 10 in Newfoundland.
- Consumer items that are less likely to be found in households include compact disc players* (7.9%), camcorders* (2.8%) and home computers (12.6%). Unlike VCRs and microwave ovens, the proportion of households with home computers has changed little since the mid-1980s.
- Piped gas is still the main heating fuel in 44.4% of dwellings. However, electricity is the fuel of choice for hot water (53.0%) and, by a wide margin, for cooking (93.5%).
- Gas barbecue popularity continues to grow with 41.1% of households having one, up from 32.3% in 1986. They are most prevalent in Alberta, found in 54.4% of households, followed by Saskatchewan at 53.6%.

* Both measured for the first time.

- Provincially, there are substantial differences for the various items. For example, while 45.9% of homes in British Columbia have a fireplace, only 11.4% in Prince Edward Island have one. Freezers are most popular in Saskatchewan (77.7%) and least popular in Quebec (44.2%). In Alberta and Saskatchewan, 64.9% and 64.0% of households have a microwave oven compared to Newfoundland at 34.3%. In general, microwave ovens, dishwashers and multiple colour televisions are more common west of Quebec.
- Changes in household equipment over the last 10 years have been substantial. For example, in 1978, 72.3% of households had a colour television compared to 95.1% now. In fact, the proportion of households with two or more colour televisions (32.6%) has increased fivefold in 10 years. Other items showing growth include dishwashers (from 23.9% to 41.3%), automatic washing machines (from 59.1% to 72.5%), cable television (from 49.6% to 69.0%), and three or more telephones (from 5.2% to 26.6%).

For both national and provincial estimates, order *Household Facilities and Equipment*, 1988 (64-202, \$25). See "How to Order Publications".

For more information concerning these data or on the availability of special request tabulations, contact the Income and Housing Surveys Section (613-951-9778), Household Surveys Division.

A microdata file containing 1988 facilities and equipment data and 1987 household income, along with dwelling characteristics and socio-demographic characteristics of the household will be available later. This file can be ordered by contacting the Household Surveys Division (613-951-9778).

Chart - 1

Balance of Opinion for Expected Volume of Production During Next Three Months Compared with Last Three Months

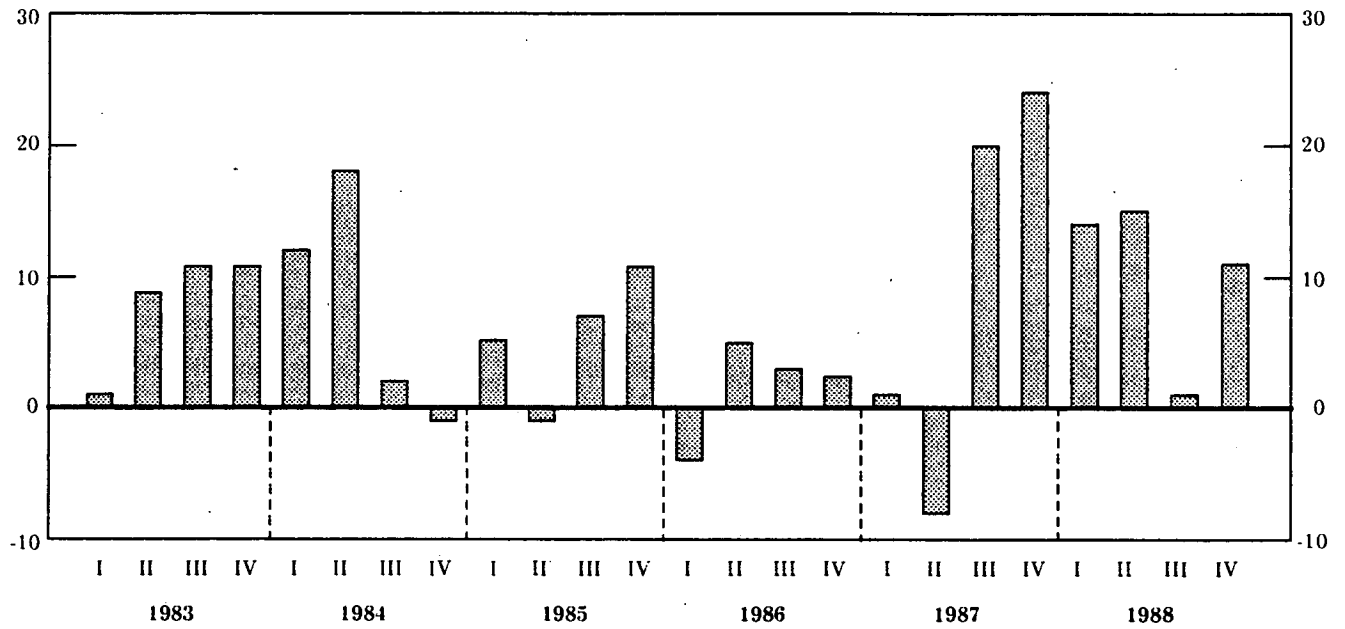
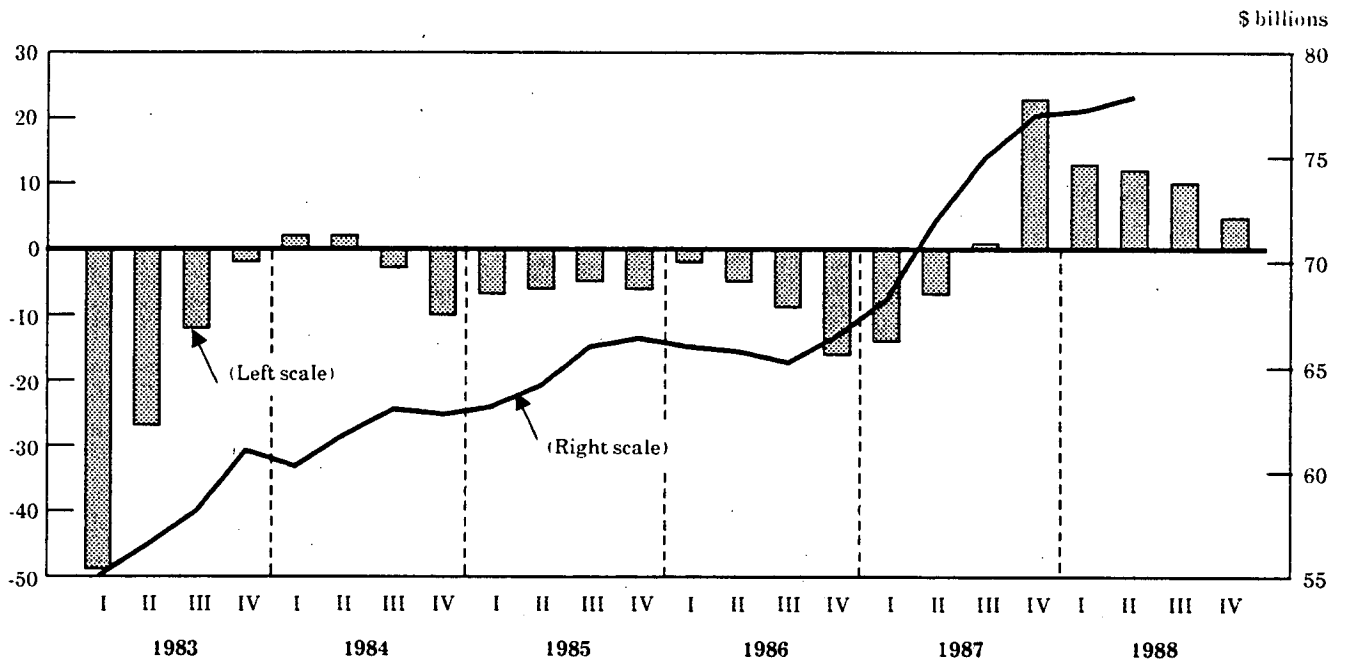


Chart - 2

Comparison Between Balance of Opinion For Present Backlog of Unfilled Orders (Left Scale) and The Gross Domestic Product At 1981 Factor Costs (Right Scale) For All Manufacturing Industries, Adjusted For Seasonal Variation



Quarterly Business Conditions Survey, Canadian Manufacturing Industries October 1988

Seasonally Adjusted

Canadian manufacturers' balance of opinion concerning the level of finished product inventory improved substantially between the July 1988 and October 1988 surveys. However, the level of concern about the backlog of unfilled orders continued to increase.

Highlights

- The balance of manufacturers' opinion about the expected **volume of production** over the next three months rose from +1 in July 1988 to +11. (The balance of opinion is calculated by subtracting the pessimistic percentage of responses (16) from the optimistic percentage of responses (27), to give a +11 result.) This 10-percentage point increase in the balance of opinion should be viewed with caution though, as it stems from manufacturers who in July reported "lower" expectations and who said the same for October by stating their expected volume of production over the next three months as compared to the last three months would be "about the same" ie. lower.
- The -9 balance of opinion for **finished product inventories** on hand ended a four-quarter decline. Compared to the last three quarters, and most notably July 1988 at -19, the October 1988 result shows renewed optimism on the part of Canadian manufacturers.
- Manufacturers' concerns over the level of the **backlog of unfilled orders** was reinforced in the October 1988 survey. The balance of +5 for October represents a steady and successive decline since the October 1987 peak of +23.
- There was no change in the degree of concern expressed regarding **orders received** between July and October. Prior to the October survey, the balance had been declining for the previous six surveys.

Note:

Individual responses to the Business Conditions Survey are weighted by the value of the respondent's shipments reported to the annual Census of Manufactures. The proportions, therefore, reflect the magnitude of the individual manufacturer's contribution to the total.

The balance is the difference between the proportion associated with the positive-type response (e.g. higher volume of production) and the proportion related to the negative-type response (e.g. lower volume of production).

Both the raw data (raw) and seasonally adjusted (s.a.) data are given for the balance. The seasonally adjusted value for the neutral components (e.g. expected production about the same) is calculated by subtracting the sum of the seasonally adjusted values of the other two components from 100.

Unadjusted

- The proportion of manufacturers indicating **production difficulties** hit a historic high of 40% this quarter, a level not seen since April of 1982. Most of the increase in production difficulties was attributed to a shortage of skilled labour and "other"; explanation of the latter mainly revolved around the growing concern over the shortage of orders.

(see table on page 8)

The Business Conditions Survey is carried out in January, April, July and October and the majority of responses are recorded in the first two weeks of these months.

Data users should note the July 1988 results have been revised to include responses received after the first release of these results.

Available on CANSIM (raw data only): matrices 2843-2845.

For more detailed information on this release, contact L. Deschambault (613-951-3507), Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section, Industry Division.

Business Conditions Survey, Canadian Manufacturing Industries

October 1988

All Manufacturing Industries	October 1987	January 1988	April 1988	July 1988	October 1988
Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:					
Seasonally adjusted					
About the same	50	56	49	45	57
Higher	37	29	33	28	27
Lower	13	15	18	27	16
Balance	24	14	15	1	11
Raw					
Balance	23	8	33	-10	13
Orders received are:					
Seasonally adjusted					
About the same	64	63	65	64	66
Rising	29	25	24	21	20
Declining	7	12	11	15	14
Balance	22	13	13	6	6
Raw					
Balance	18	11	18	8	4
Present backlog of unfilled orders is:					
Seasonally adjusted					
About normal	59	69	66	62	73
Higher than normal	32	22	23	24	16
Lower than normal	9	9	11	14	11
Balance	23	13	12	10	5
Raw					
Balance	22	10	12	14	5
Finished product inventory on hand is:					
Seasonally adjusted					
About right	69	72	70	65	77
Too low	11	9	8	8	7
Too high ¹	20	19	22	27	16
Balance	-9	-10	-16	-19	-9
Raw					
Balance	-7	-11	-15	-19	-8
Sources of production difficulties:					
Raw					
Working capital shortage	4	3	4	3	2
Skilled labour shortage	8	7	9	11	14
Unskilled labour shortage	3	2	2	3	4
Raw material shortage	6	7	7	7	4
Other difficulties	5	5	5	7	16
No difficulties	77	79	74	69	60

¹ No evident seasonality.

Farm Input Price Index

Third Quarter 1988

The Farm Input Price Index (1981=100) for the third quarter of 1988 stood at a preliminary level of 112.9, down 0.1% from the previous quarter but an increase of 1.8% from a year earlier. While two major group indexes declined, four rose and three remained unchanged.

Highlights

- The animal production index, down 1.0%, had the largest impact on the quarterly decrease. Lower prices for feeder calves (-10.1%) and weanling pigs (-28.0%) were partially offset by higher prices for chicken (30.8%) and feed (22.8%) – consequences of this year's drought.

- Crop production was the other major group index which recorded a decline (-0.5%) due to lower prices for fertilizer (-1.3%).
- The interest index was estimated to have risen 3.5%, mainly due to higher interest rates for non-mortgage types of loans.

(see table on page 10)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1900-1909.

The third quarter 1988 issue of *Farm Input Price Indexes* (62-004, \$11.25/\$45) will be available at the end of November. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Farm Input Price Indexes
(1981 = 100)

	3rd Quarter 1988	2nd Quarter 1988	3rd Quarter 1987	% change	
				3rd Q. 1988/ 2nd Q. 1988	3rd Q. 1988/ 3rd Q. 1987
Eastern Canada					
Total farm input P	115.9	115.6	111.2	0.3	4.2
Building and fencing	143.9	143.0	138.3	0.6	4.0
Machinery and motor vehicles	121.8	121.2	118.5	0.5	2.8
Crop production	113.6	114.0	109.2	-0.4	4.0
Animal production	113.3	113.8	108.5	-0.4	4.4
Supplies and services	137.7	136.2	131.4	1.1	4.8
Hired farm labour	142.3	142.2	136.2	0.1	4.5
Property taxes P	117.2	117.2	111.8	0.0	4.8
Interest P	84.6	81.6	79.3	3.7	6.7
Farm rent P	67.4	67.4	65.5	0.0	2.9
Western Canada					
Total farm input P	110.7	111.0	110.7	-0.3	0.0
Building and fencing	127.6	127.0	127.6	0.5	0.0
Machinery and motor vehicles	116.1	116.3	116.4	-0.2	-0.3
Crop production	93.3	93.8	93.3	-0.5	0.0
Animal production	120.0	121.9	122.4	-1.6	-2.0
Supplies and services	126.4	126.7	125.0	-0.2	1.1
Hired farm labour	128.9	128.5	124.3	0.3	3.7
Property taxes P	152.5	152.5	146.3	0.0	4.2
Interest P	80.6	78.0	76.1	3.3	5.9
Farm rent P	80.7	80.7	82.4	0.0	-2.1
Canada					
Total farm input P	112.9	113.0	110.9	-0.1	1.8
Building and fencing	136.0	135.2	133.1	0.6	2.2
Machinery and motor vehicles	117.9	117.9	117.2	0.0	0.6
Crop production	101.2	101.7	99.5	-0.5	1.7
Animal production	116.6	117.8	115.4	-1.0	1.0
Supplies and services	131.6	131.1	127.9	0.4	2.9
Hired farm labour	136.5	136.3	131.0	0.1	4.2
Property taxes P	140.3	140.3	134.3	0.0	4.5
Interest P	82.3	79.5	77.4	3.5	6.3
Farm rent P	77.7	77.7	78.6	0.0	-1.1

^P Preliminary figures.

Data Availability Announcements

Sawmills East of the Rockies

August 1988

Production of lumber in sawmills east of the Rockies increased 6.2% to 2 095 088 cubic metres (887,848,000 feet board measure) in August 1988 from 1 972 494 cubic metres (835,896,000 feet board measure) after revisions in August 1987.

Stocks on hand at the end of August 1988 totalled 2 342 431 cubic metres (992,666,000 feet board measure), an increase of 15.2% compared to 2 032 819 cubic metres (861,461,000 feet board measure) in August 1987.

Year-to-date production in 1988 amounted to 15 824 979^r (r: revised figure) cubic metres (6,706,247,000^r feet board measure), a decrease of 0.9% compared to 15 974 756 cubic metres (6,769,719,000 feet board measure) after revisions for the same period in 1987.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 53 (except series 1.2, 2.2, 3.2) and 122 (series 2).

The August 1988 issue of *Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies* (35-002, \$9/\$90) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Production and Value of Honey and Maple Products

1987-88

Production and value for 1987 and a preliminary production estimate for 1988 are now available for both honey and maple products.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1056 and 1057.

The 1988 issue of *Production and Value of Honey and Maple Products* (23-211, \$11) will be available the third week of November. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Other Commercial Printing Industry

1986 Census of Manufactures

In 1986, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the other commercial printing industry (SIC 2819) totalled \$4,110.6 million, up 9.6% from \$3,751.3 million in 1985.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5498.

Data for the industry will be published at a later date (36-251B 2819, \$4). See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact R. Wright (613-951-3514), Industry Division.

Turbine and Mechanical Power Transmission Equipment Industry

1986 Census of Manufactures

In 1986, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the turbine and mechanical power transmission equipment industry (SIC 3194) totalled \$600.9 million, up 11.1% from \$540.8 million in 1985.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5546.

Data for the industry will be published at a later date (42-250B 3194, \$4). See "How to Order Publications".

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

Motor Vehicle Plastic Parts Industry

1986 Census of Manufactures

In 1986, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the motor vehicle plastic parts industry (SIC 3256) totalled \$1,263.9 million, up 26.1% from \$1,002.6 million in 1985.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5560.

Data for the industry will be published at a later date (42-251B 3256, \$4). See "How to Order Publications".

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

Electrical Switchgear and Protective Equipment Industry

1986 Census of Manufactures

In 1986, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the electrical switchgear and protective equipment industry (SIC 3372) totalled \$693.3 million, up 11.1% from \$624.3 million in 1985.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5581.

Data for the industry will be published at a later date (43-250B 3372, \$4). See "How to Order Publications".

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

Other Electrical Industrial Equipment Industries

1986 Census of Manufactures

In 1986, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the other electrical industrial equipment industries (SIC 3379) totalled \$760.2 million, up 3.5% from \$734.7 million in 1985.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5582.

Data for the industry will be published at a later date (43-250B 3379, \$4). See "How to Order Publications".

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

Other Electrical Products Industries, n.e.c.

1986 Census of Manufactures

In 1986, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the other electrical products industries, n.e.c. (SIC 3399) totalled \$430.1 million, up 16.1% from \$370.6 million in 1985.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5586.

Data for the industry will be published at a later date (43-250B 3399, \$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 and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder, September 1988.
Catalogue number 32-024
(Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Production, Sales and Stocks of Major Appliances, September 1988.
Catalogue number 43-010
(Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation, September 1988.
Catalogue number 44-004
(Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Telephone Statistics, August 1988.
Catalogue number 56-002
(Canada: \$7.50/\$75; Other Countries: \$8.50/\$85).

Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics, August 1988. Catalogue number 63-011
(Canada: \$5.50/\$55; Other Countries: \$6.50/\$65).

Household Facilities and Equipment, May 1988.
Catalogue number 64-202
(Canada: \$25; Other Countries: \$26).

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Major Release Dates

Week of November 7 - 10

(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date of release	Title	Reference period
November		
7	Estimates of Labour Income	August 1988
9	New Housing Price Index	September 1988
9	Department Store Sales, by Province and Metropolitan Area	September 1988
10	New Motor Vehicle Sales	September 1988
10	Help-wanted Index	October 1988
10	Travel Between Canada and Other Countries	September 1988
10	Farm Product Price Index	September 1988

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