

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 23, 1988

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- Exports of crude oil rose 32.3% over March 1987, the largest increase since August 1986.

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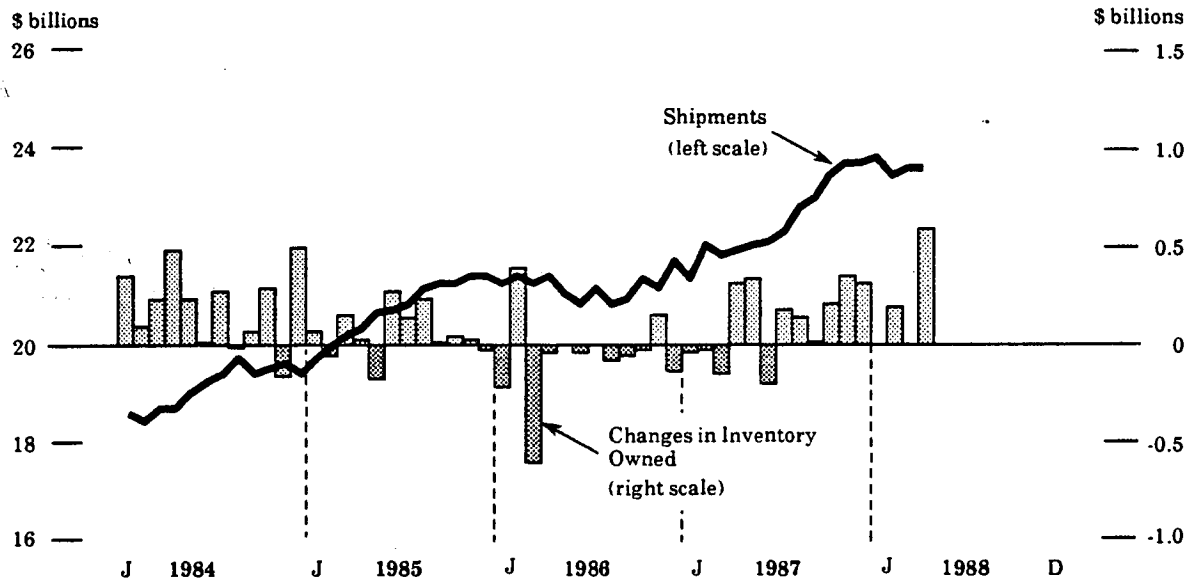
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Major Releases

Manufacturers' Shipments and Changes in Inventory Owned, 1984-1988 (Seasonally adjusted)



Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries April 1988

Seasonally Adjusted

Increases in manufacturing shipments for March and April 1988 have offset most of the decline in February. Despite these increases, there has been no growth on average since November 1987. This contrasts with the strong growth recorded in the preceding eight months. The ratio of inventories to shipments increased in April and new orders returned to more normal levels following a sharp rise in the shipbuilding industry in March 1988.

Note to Users

With the release of March 1988 data, the estimated values of shipments, inventories and orders were revised back to January 1984. These revisions reflect the incorporation of annual benchmarks to the Census of Manufactures. The benchmarking process adjusts the monthly sample estimates in the benchmark years 1984 and 1985 to the annual Census levels, updates the sample, uses new and revised data and re-estimates the seasonal adjustment factors.

(continued on page 3)

Highlights

- Preliminary estimates indicate that the value of **shipments** increased 0.2% in April to a level of \$23.6 billion. This increase, together with a 0.9% increase in March, offset most of the 1.6% decline in February.
- After a large increase of 10.3% in March 1988 due to an exceptionally large increase for shipbuilding, **new orders** returned to more normal levels, with an 8.6% decrease in April to \$23.8 billion.
- **Inventories** increased 1.7% to \$36.9 billion in April. Increases averaging 0.6% a month over the last seven months have pushed inventories to a new high.
- The **inventory to shipments ratio** was up from 1.54:1 in March to 1.56:1 in April, since the increase in inventories exceeded the rise in shipments.
- The **unfilled orders backlog** increased 0.6% in April 1988 to \$26.6 billion, following a large 10.2% increase in March, which was due to an exceptionally large increase for shipbuilding.

Unadjusted

- Manufacturers' shipments in April 1988 were estimated at \$23.6 billion, 6.3% higher than the April 1987 level.

- Cumulative shipments for the first four months of 1988 were estimated at \$93.5 billion, 9.3% higher than the value for the corresponding period in 1987.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9580.

(see table on page 4)

Note: Inventories referred to in the text above are inventories owned, which exclude inventories for which manufacturers have received payment, but which they are still holding. This occurs for industries where long-term projects are arranged and progress payments are received according to the work done. In these cases, shipments data reflect progress payments rather than deliveries. At the all-industry level, inventory owned accounts for the largest part of inventory held.

The April 1988 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, \$16.50/\$165) will be available in about three weeks time.

Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available on request. For further information, please contact Donald Dubreuil (613-951-9497) or the Shipments, Inventories and Orders Section (613-951-9832), Industry Division.

Estimated Value of Shipments, Inventories and Orders in all Manufacturing Industries
(millions of dollars)

	March 1987	April 1987	January 1988 ^r	February 1988 ^r	March 1988 ^r	April 1988 ^p
Adjusted for Seasonal Variation						
Shipments	21,768	21,853	23,765	23,380	23,583	23,639
New orders	21,629	21,890	23,722	23,598	26,034	23,787
Unfilled orders	22,565	22,601	23,749	23,967	26,418	26,567
Inventories	34,706	35,232	36,140	36,295	36,286	36,902
Ratio of inventories to shipments	1.60	1.61	1.52	1.55	1.54	1.56
Unadjusted						
Shipments	22,924	22,166	21,710	22,843	25,398	23,553
New orders	22,976	22,293	21,859	23,323	28,017	23,791
Unfilled orders	22,657	22,784	23,410	23,890	26,508	26,746
Inventories	35,202	35,733	36,259	36,775	36,805	37,402

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

Crude Oil and Natural Gas

March 1988

Highlights

- Preliminary figures indicate that production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons in March 1988 amounted to 8.5 million cubic metres, an increase of 9.7% over March 1987.
- Crude oil exports continued their strong pattern of growth in 1988, up 32.3% over March 1987. Imports of crude oil continued to reflect increased demand by eastern refineries, posting a gain of 58.5% in March 1988 that brought the year-to-date level 20.5% above the first quarter of 1987. Also, refinery receipts recorded an increase of 11.7%.

- Marketable production of natural gas, at 7.9 billion cubic metres, posted a ninth consecutive gain, rising 10.1% over March 1987. Exports of natural gas continued to show a marked increase, up 25.1% over March 1987. Sales of natural gas in Canada rose 4.4% over the same period last year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 127 and 128.

The March 1988 issue of *Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, \$9/\$90) is scheduled to be released the second week of July. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gerard O'Connor (613-951-3562), Industry Division.

Crude Oil and Natural Gas

	March 1988	% Change from Mar. 1987	Jan.- Mar. 1988	% Change from Jan.- Mar. 1987
(thousands of cubic metres)				
Crude oil and equivalent				
Production	8 547.0	9.7	24 629.0	9.1
Exports	3 514.1	32.3	10 108.2	25.8
Imports	2 846.7	58.5	6 804.1	20.5
Refinery receipts	7 568.5	11.7	21 749.2	8.0
(millions of cubic metres)				
Natural gas				
Marketable production	7 906.6	10.1	25 396.6	17.1
Exports	3 084.9	25.1	10 137.1	32.9
Canadian sales	5 391.4	4.4	17 456.8	8.0

Data Availability Announcements

Quarterly Demographic Statistics, Canada, Provinces and Territories January-March 1988

The estimates of population for Canada, the provinces and territories at April 1, 1988 as well as figures on immigration, interprovincial migration, births, deaths and marriages for the quarter January-March are now available on CANSIM: quarterly population estimates, matrix 1; immigration, matrices 2, 3 and 397; births, deaths and marriages, matrices 4, 5 and 6; interprovincial migration (Family Allowances), matrices 5731 and 6982.

These estimates will appear in the publication *Quarterly Demographic Statistics* (91-002, \$7/\$28) in the next few weeks.

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

Computer Services 1986

Preliminary results of the 1986 computer services survey are now available on request.

Highlights

- Total revenue from computer service firms increased by 13% over 1985 to reach \$2.8 billion.
- Revenue from sales abroad increased by 52% to \$178 million in 1986.

The upcoming publication *Computer Service Industry* contains the following new features:

- Revenue breakdowns indicating new growth categories such as "turnkey" systems.
- Estimates of the total "market" for computer services regardless of the firm's industry classification.

Final results will be published in *Computer Service Industry* (63-222, \$24), available in August. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Danielle Lavigne (613-951-2197), Services Division.

Government Revenue and Expenditure First Quarter 1988

Government revenue and expenditure detail by level of government on a national accounts basis for the quarter ended March 31, 1988 is now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2711-2713.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Dan Finnerty (613-951-1820), Public Institutions Division.

Railway Carloadings

May 1988

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada totalled 23.4 million tonnes in May 1988, an increase of 8.2% from the previous year. The carriers received an additional 1.1 million tonnes from United States connections, a decrease of 14.9% from May 1987.

Total loadings in Canada for the year to date showed an increase of 6.6% from the 1987 period, while receipts from United States connections decreased 2.2%.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1431.

The May 1988 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, \$7.50/ \$75) is to be released the first week of July. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, including seasonally adjusted revenue freight loadings, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2484), Transportation Division.

Steel Ingots

Week Ending June 18, 1988

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian steel ingot production for the week ending June 18, 1988 totalled 298 357 tonnes, a decrease of 2.0% from the preceding week's total of 304 331 tonnes but up 2.4% from the year-earlier level of 291 471 tonnes.

The cumulative total in 1988 was 7 189 337 tonnes, an increase of 1.7% from 7 066 603 tonnes for the same period in 1987.

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

Railway Financial and Operating Statistics

March 1988

The seven major railways reported a combined net income of \$88.4 million in March 1988. Operating revenues of \$734.7 million were up \$90.5 million from the March 1987 figure.

Revenue freight tonne-kilometres were up 1.5% during the month. Freight train-kilometres registered an increase of 3.6% while freight car-kilometres increased by 0.5%.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 142.

The March 1988 issue of *Railway Financial and Operating Statistics* (52-003, \$9.50/\$95) is scheduled to be released the fourth week of July. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Railway Financial and Operating Statistics

February 1988

The seven major railways reported a combined net income of \$39.7 million in February 1988. Operating revenues of \$621.1 million were up \$2.0 million from the February 1987 figure.

Revenue freight tonne-kilometres were up 3.8% during the month. Freight train-kilometres registered an increase of 9.2% while freight car-kilometres increased by 0.2%.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 142.

The February 1988 issue of *Railway Financial and Operating Statistics* (52-003, \$9.50/\$95) is to be released the third week of July. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Angus McLean (613-951-2484), Transportation Division.

Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers May 1988

Canadian domestic shipments of corrugated boxes and wrappers totalled 193 901 thousand square metres in May 1988, an increase of 7.9% from the 179 654^r (revised figure) thousand square metres shipped a year earlier.

January to May 1988 domestic shipments totalled 960 225 thousand square metres, up 8.3% from the 886 235^r thousand square metres shipped for the same period in 1987.

The May 1988 issue of *Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers* (36-004, \$4.50/\$45) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Sandra Bohatyretz (613-951-3531), Industry Division.

Oils and Fats April 1988

Production by Canadian manufacturers of all types of deodorized oils in April 1988 totalled 45 403 tonnes, a decrease of 9.8% from the 50 362 tonnes produced in March 1988. The 1988 year-to-date production totalled 196 387 tonnes, an increase of 3.1% from the corresponding 1987 figure of 190 415^r (revised figure) tonnes.

Manufacturers' packaged sales of shortening totalled 8 911 tonnes in April 1988, down from the 11 335 tonnes sold the previous month. The cumulative sales to date in 1988 were 35 215 tonnes, compared to the cumulative sales of 29 301^r tonnes in 1987.

Sales of packaged salad oil decreased to 4 519 tonnes in April 1988 from 6 756 tonnes in March 1988. The cumulative sales to date in 1988 were 22 510 tonnes, compared to the cumulative sales of 25 283^r tonnes in 1987.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 184.

The April 1988 issue of *Oils and Fats* (32-006, \$4.50/\$45) will be released at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Imports by Commodity (H.S. Based) April 1988

Commodity-country import trade statistics based on the Harmonized System (H.S.) for April 1988 are now available on microfiche, computer printouts or magnetic tapes in advance of the monthly publication.

Available on CANSIM (for selected information): matrices 3887-3913 and 3718.

The April 1988 issue of *Imports by Commodity (H.S. Based)* (65-007, \$50/\$500) will be available the third week of July. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), International Trade Division.

Publications Released

The Sugar Situation, May 1988.

Catalogue number 32-013

(Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, May 1988.

Catalogue number 32-022

(Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Footwear Statistics, April 1988.

Catalogue number 33-002

(Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

Quarterly Shipments of Office Furniture Products, Quarter ended March 31, 1988.

Catalogue number 35-006

(Canada: \$6.25/\$25; Other Countries: \$7.25/\$29).

Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries, Business Forms Printing Industry, 1986 Census of Manufactures.

Catalogue number 36-251B 2811

(Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries, Other Combined Publishing and Printing Industries, 1986 Census of Manufactures.

Catalogue number 36-251B 2849

(Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

Other Manufacturing Industries, Musical Instrument and Sound Recording Industry, 1986 Census of Manufactures.

Catalogue number 47-250B 3994

(Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

Consumer Prices and Price Indexes, October-December 1987.

Catalogue number 62-010

(Canada: \$16.50/\$66; Other Countries: \$18.50/\$74).

Touriscope, International Travel, Advance Information, April 1988.

Catalogue number 66-001P

(Canada: \$5.50/\$55; Other Countries: \$6.50/\$65).

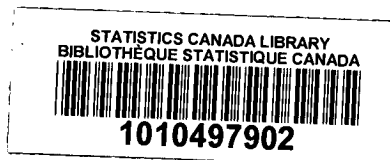
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Please enclose cheque or money order payable to the Receiver General for Canada/Publications and provide full information on publications required (catalogue number, title, issue).

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

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Toll free service: 1-800-565-7192

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Guy Favreau Complex
Suite 412 East Tower
Montreal, Quebec
H2Z 1X4
Local calls: 283-5725
Toll free service: 1-800-361-2831

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Statistics Canada
Lobby
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Ottawa, Ontario
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Local calls: 951-8116
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Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
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Arthur Meighen Building
25 St. Clair Avenue East
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 1M4
Local calls: 973-6586
Toll free service: 1-800-268-1151

Nipissing Region

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Sturgeon Falls, Ontario
P0H 2G0
Local calls: 753-4888
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