Department Store Sales

Department stores in Canada reported sales totalling $900.4 million in March 1986, an increase of 6.0% from a year earlier.

Cumulative sales for the period January to March 1986 totalled $2.358.6 million, up 7.8% from the same period in 1985.

On a regional basis, department store sales during the month were as follows, with the percentage change from March 1985 in parentheses:

- Atlantic provinces, $603.3 million (3.4%)
- Quebec, $169.8 million (4.3%)
- Ontario, $33.28 million (9.4%)
- Manitoba, $4.62 million (6.0%)
- Saskatchewan, $28.3 million (7.8%)
- Alberta, $22.7 million (1.1%)
- British Columbia, $140.3 million (4.3%)
- Atlantic provinces, $603.3 million (3.4%)

Departments stores in Canada reported sales during the month were as follows, with the percentage change from March 1985 in parentheses:

- Retail Sales ($ million)
  - Total: $8.4 billion, up 8.0% to $8.4 billion.

Composite Leading Indicator

The composite indicator rose for the ninth straight month in February, although the increase was smaller than in January and was less evenly distributed among the components. The index's rise of 1.0% (to 171.0) originated in seven components and was consistent with the historical average for expansions in which changes averaged about 1.0% and an average seven out of 10 components were up. A firming trend in the manufacturing indicators and a gradual recovery in the United States leading indicator partly offset a slowdown in indicators of household demand, particularly in the residential construction index. The non-filtered index continued to rise, up 0.7% to 173.8, after increasing slightly in January (0.4%).

Additional data and further analysis of the Leading Indicator are available in the monthly Current Economic Indicators (13-005, $10/$100). Contact: G. Proulx (613-990-9163).

Value of Farm Capital

The value of farm capital in Canada totalled $55.3 billion in 1985, down 6.3% from 1984.

Values of land and buildings decreased by 7.0% to $38.4 billion; implements and machinery decreased by 2.0% to $18.5 billion and livestock and poultry were down 8.0% to $8.4 billion.

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May 16, 1986

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</th>
<th>Previous Month</th>
<th>% Change From Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Weekly Earnings ($)</td>
<td>Feb. 427.85</td>
<td>428.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Income ($)</td>
<td>Feb. 20,555.8</td>
<td>20,335.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons with Jobs (million)</td>
<td>Apr. 11.43</td>
<td>11.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed (million)</td>
<td>Apr. 1,303,000</td>
<td>1,380,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

INVENTORIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department Store ($ million)</th>
<th>Feb. 3,722.7</th>
<th>5.800.3</th>
<th>4.3%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturers' Owned ($ million)</td>
<td>Feb. 34,982.5</td>
<td>34,421.0</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ORDERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Manufacturers' New Orders ($ million)</th>
<th>Feb. 20,631.1</th>
<th>20,597.8</th>
<th>1.1%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders ($ million)</td>
<td>Feb. 24,703.2</td>
<td>24,191.5</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consumer Price Index (1981=100)</th>
<th>Mar. 130.9</th>
<th>130.6</th>
<th>0.4%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New House Price Index (1981=100)</td>
<td>Mar. 101.3</td>
<td>100.6</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raw Materials Price Index (1981=100)</td>
<td>Mar. 95.3</td>
<td>104.7</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excl. coal, crude oil, n.gas</td>
<td>Mar. 103.2</td>
<td>102.5</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Product Price Index (1981=100)</td>
<td>Mar. 119.9</td>
<td>120.4</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Permits ($ million)</th>
<th>Feb. 1,164.4</th>
<th>2,184.5</th>
<th>36.2%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)</td>
<td>Mar. 8,517</td>
<td>23,988</td>
<td>237.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ENERGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coal Production (thousand tonnes)</th>
<th>Feb. 4,659</th>
<th>10,255</th>
<th>-1.2%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)</td>
<td>Feb. 41,407</td>
<td>86,921</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)</td>
<td>Jan. 9,971</td>
<td>9,971</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petroleum Refining (thousand cubic metres)</td>
<td>Feb. 6,765</td>
<td>14,413</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOREIGN TRADE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exports - Balance of Payments Basis ($ million)</th>
<th>Mar. 9,665</th>
<th>29,128</th>
<th>0.7%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imports - Balance of Payments Basis ($ million)</td>
<td>Mar. 8,633</td>
<td>27,113</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRODUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Railway Carloadings (thousand tonnes)</th>
<th>Jan. 19.3</th>
<th>19.3</th>
<th>0.0%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steel (metric tons)</td>
<td>Mar. 1,270</td>
<td>3,558</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SALES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department Store Sales ($ million)</th>
<th>Mar. 900.4</th>
<th>2,358.6</th>
<th>7.8%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturers' Shipments ($ million)</td>
<td>Mar. 20,119.2</td>
<td>40,221.9</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Motor Vehicle Sales ($ million)</td>
<td>Mar. 1,826.7</td>
<td>4,704.1</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Sales ($ million)</td>
<td>Feb. 9,126.6</td>
<td>18,738.1</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

The Canadian Composite Leading Index (1971=100)

The Canadian Composite Leading Index (1971=100)
Labour Force Survey

Estimates from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey for April 1986 show that the seasonally adjusted level of employment rose by 56,000 from March, the first gain since the large increase registered in January of this year. The unemployment level showed little change on a seasonally adjusted basis and the unemployment rate remained at 9.6, the same as in the previous month.

Employment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of employment for the week ended April 19, 1986 was 11,682,000 - up 56,000 from the preceding month, continuing the upward trend that began in December 1982. The increase in the estimated level of employment was almost entirely due to a 52,000 increase in the 15 to 24 age group.

Full-time employment stood at 9,833,000 as a result of an increase of 31,000 among males. Part-time employment was estimated at 1,844,000 persons, reflecting a rise of 22,000 among males.

The estimated employment level rose by 25,000 in services, by 14,000 in trade and by 7,000 in agriculture.

Provincially, the indexes in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia were 0.9% and 7.6% decreases in hog and lamb prices. A 6.5% rise in the price of sugar beets and 2.0% increase in the price of milk products were reported.

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployment was virtually unchanged at 1,239,000 (+1,000) in April 1986. For persons aged 15 to 24, unemployment declined by 19,000 while for persons aged 25 and over, it increased by 20,000.

The estimated level of unemployment fell by 12,000 in Quebec and by 5,000 in British Columbia. Unemployment increased by an estimated 9,000 in Alberta.

Unemployment Rate

The estimated unemployment rate decreased by 1.2 to 19.7 in Newfoundland, by 0.4 to 11.4 in Quebec, by 0.6 to 7.6 in Saskatchewan and by 0.3 to 12.4 in British Columbia. It rose by 0.2 to 13.5 in Prince Edward Island, by 0.1 to 8.2 in Manitoba and by 0.7 to 9.7 in Alberta. It remained unchanged at 12.8 in Nova Scotia, 14.9 in New Brunswick and 6.8 in Ontario.

Unadjusted Data

The unadjusted estimate of employment for April 1986 was 11,431,000, up 416,000 (4.3%) from a year earlier. The level of unemployment stood at 1,303,000 - 134,000 less (9.3%) than in April 1985. The unemployment rate declined by 1.3 to 10.2 during the 12-month period. The participation rate was 65.1, a 0.7 increase from a year before. Over the same period, the employment/population ratio climbed by 1.5 to 68.5.

Order the April 1986 issue of The Labour Force (71-001, $20/$200). Contact: Ken Bennett (613-990-9448), Household Surveys Division.

Unemployment Rate, Canada

(Seasonally Adjusted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
<th>Canada</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>11%</td>
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<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics Canada, The Labour Force (71-001)

Farm Input Price Index

The Farm Input Price Index (1981 = 100) for Canada for the first quarter of 1986 stood at a preliminary level of 108.6. While the index increased 2.4% during the first three months of 1986, it was only 1.1% above the year-earlier level.

At the Canada level the largest impact on quarterly movement came from an increase in the animal production index (3.8%), mainly due to higher prices for weanling pigs, which were up 9.8%. Most other major groups also recorded increases ranging from 0.1% to 3.9%. The crop production index (the only index to decline) fell 0.2% because of a 1.2% drop in fertilizer prices.

On a year-to-year basis, all major group indexes increased, except for the interest index which fell 6.8%. This decline was attributable to a 2.2% fall in the mortgage index, reflecting mainly lower land prices, and a 9.5% drop in the non-mortgage index, reflecting lower interest rates. The animal production index was up 0.9%, reflecting rather large offsetting movements - from a decline in grain feed prices of 17.3% to an increase in piglet prices of 15.5%. These changes were much more significant in the West, where grain feed prices were down 24.3% while prices for weanling pigs were up 62.8%.

The crop production index was also up 0.9% over the year, but the movements of the individual indexes have been more modest: increases in prices for pesticides (3.4%) were partially offset by lower prices for fertilizer (-1.8%). The largest annual increase was in the hired farm labour index, which rose 4.5%.

Regionally, the Eastern Canada total index was up 2.9% from the fourth quarter of 1985 and now stands 0.3% above the previous year's level. In Western Canada, the total index was up 2.0% over the quarter and 1.7% over the first quarter of 1985.

Order the First Quarter 1986 issue of Farm Input Price Indexes (62-004, $10/$40). Contact: the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-990-96067).
New Motor Vehicle Sales

Sales of all new motor vehicles totalled 1,181,178 units in March 1986, down 3.3% or 43,399 units from March 1985. The principal factors accounting for this year-over-year decline were sales of passenger cars built in North America (down 12.4% to 662,828 units) and in Japan (down 2.7% to 17,896 units). Total sales of commercial vehicles increased by 4.7% over March 1985 to reach 35,921 units.

A 12.9% year-over-year rise in sales of overseas-built passenger cars (to 30,438 units) was due to an increase of 43.6% for passenger cars manufactured in "other countries" (to 12,542 units).

The share of the Canadian passenger car market held by North American manufacturers in March 1986 (based on unit sales) was 68.7%, down from the 72.8% recorded in March 1985. Japanese manufacturers held a market share of 18.4% compared to 17.8% the previous year. Manufacturers from "other countries" held 12.9% of the passenger car market, a substantial increase from the 8.4% registered in March 1985.

The total dollar value of all new motor vehicles sold in March 1986 increased by 4.9% from a year earlier to $1.826.7 million. Sales of overseas passenger cars reached $418.4 million, up 27.6% over the corresponding month in 1985. Total sales of commercial vehicles built overseas amounted to $62.4 million, up 41.9%. Sales of North American passenger cars declined 7.4% to $834.0 million while sales of commercial vehicles increased 9.0% to reach $511.9 million.

With the exception of British Columbia, whose unit sales increased by 16.0%, all provinces registered lower unit sales of motor vehicles in March 1986 compared to March 1985. Declines ranged from 13.2% in Saskatchewan to 0.9% in Ontario. Total new motor vehicle sales reported for the first three months of 1986 increased by 5.0% over the same period last year to reach 341,009 units, valued at $4,704.1 million, up 276% over the corresponding period in 1985. Declines ranged from 13.2% in British Columbia, 5.0% for the country as a whole. These data accounted for this year-over-year change registered previously. Prices for domestically produced machinery and equipment increased 3.5% while imported goods prices rose 4.2%, largely due to the Canadian dollar, which was weaker against the United States dollar during 1984.

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Therapeutic Abortions

Canada's 10 provinces and two territories reported 62,291 therapeutic abortions for 1984, up from the 61,800 therapeutic abortions reported in 1983 but down from 66,319 therapeutic abortions in 1982. The therapeutic abortion rate (number of therapeutic abortions per 100 live births) was 16.5 for 1984, unchanged from the rate of 1983 and down from 17.8 for 1982.

Demographic and medical characteristics of the 61,822 Canadian women who obtained therapeutic abortions in Canada during 1984 are as follows:

- Concerning marital status - 66.6% were single, 20.8% were married and 13.4% were either separated, divorced, widowed, living in a common-law relationship, or did not indicate their marital status.
- Of the total women, 25.6% were under 20 years of age, 24.3% were between 20 and 29 years and the remaining 11.6% were 30 years of age or older.
- Sixty per cent of the women had no deliveries prior to the present therapeutic abortion, 32.4% had one to three previous deliveries and 2% had at least four previous deliveries.
- At the time of therapeutic abortion the duration of pregnancy was: under 13 weeks for 0.3% of the women, 13 to 16 weeks for 8.6% of the women, 17 to 20 weeks for 39.0%, 21 to 26 weeks for 20.7% and over 26 weeks for 30.3% of the women.
- Only 3% of the total cases were reported to have a complication related to the therapeutic abortion.

Order Therapeutic Abortions, Canada, 1982 and 1984 (62-211, $20). Contact: W. Bhatia (613-991-1639), or J. Sibbald (613-990-8533).
## Publications Released May 9 - May 15

### Agriculture/Natural Resources
- Livestock Report -- Pigs, April 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 23-008
  - Price per issue/year: $15/$60, $16/$64

### Econometric Analysis
- Current Economic Indicators, May 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 13-005
  - Price per issue/year: $10/$100, $11/$110

### Education, Culture and Tourism
- Performing Musicians and Composers, 1982
  - Catalogue No.: 87-530
  - Price per issue/year: $10
- Salaries and Salary Scales of Full-time Teaching Staff at Canadian Universities, 1985-86
  - Catalogue No.: 87-532
  - Price per issue/year: $10
  - Catalogue No.: 87-003
  - Price per issue/year: $8/$32, $9/$36

### Health
- Occupational Mortality in British Columbia, 1950-1978
  - Catalogue No.: 84-544
  - Price per issue/year: $18
- Therapeutic Abortions, 1983 and 1984
  - Catalogue No.: 82-211
  - Price per issue/year: $19

### Industry
- Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers, March 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 36-004
  - Price per issue/year: $4/$540, $5/$550
- Department Store Sales and Stocks, February 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 63-002
  - Price per issue/year: $13/$130, $14/$140
- Electric Power Statistics, January 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 57-001
  - Price per issue/year: $8/$80, $9/$90
- Footwear Statistics, March 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 33-002
  - Price per issue/year: $4/$40, $5/$50
- Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, January 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 31-001
  - Price per issue/year: $15/$150, $16/$160
- Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation, March 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 44-004
  - Price per issue/year: $4/$40, $5/$50
- Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada, February 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 47-004
  - Price per issue/year: $4/$40, $5/$50
- Production, Sales and Stocks of Major Appliances, March 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 43-010
  - Price per issue/year: $4/$40, $5/$50
- Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, February 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 35-003
  - Price per issue/year: $6/$60, $7/$70
- Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, February 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 35-002
  - Price per issue/year: $8/$80, $9/$90
- Refined Petroleum Products, January 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 45-004
  - Price per issue/year: $15/$150, $16/$160
- Retail Trade, February 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 63-005
  - Price per issue/year: $14/$140, $15/$150
- Shipments of Solid Fuel Burning Heating Products, Quarter Ended March 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 25-002
  - Price per issue/year: $3/$312, $4/$41
- Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances, March 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 43-003
  - Price per issue/year: $4/$40
- Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, April 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 32-012
  - Price per issue/year: $10/$100, $11/$110
- Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, January 1, 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 32-010
  - Price per issue/year: $8/$80
- The Sugar Situation, March 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 32-013
  - Price per issue/year: $4/$40

### International Trade
- Exports by Commodities, February 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 65-004
  - Price per issue/year: $50/$500, $60/$600
- Exports - Merchandise Trade, 1985
  - Catalogue No.: 65-202
  - Price per issue/year: $150

### Labour
- Unemployment Insurance Statistics, February 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 73-001
  - Price per issue/year: $12/$120

### Prices
- The Consumer Price Index, April 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 62-001
  - Price per issue/year: $8/$80

### Science, Technology and Capital Stock
- Building Permits, January 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 64-001
  - Price per issue/year: $20/$200

### Services
- Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics, January 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 63-011
  - Price per issue/year: $5/$50

### Small Area Data
- Urban FSA and Rural Postal Code Summary Data, 1985
  - Catalogue No.: 17-602
  - Price per issue/year: $275
- Atlantic Provinces
  - Catalogue No.: 86-000
  - Price per issue/year: $275
- Quebec
  - Catalogue No.: 86-001
  - Price per issue/year: $100
- Ontario
  - Catalogue No.: 86-002
  - Price per issue/year: $100
- Western Provinces and Territories
  - Catalogue No.: 86-004
  - Price per issue/year: $100

### Structural Analysis
- Human Activity and the Environment, A Statistical Compendium
  - Catalogue No.: 11-509E
  - Price per issue/year: $45

### Transportation
- Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin, Vol. 18, No. 4
  - Catalogue No.: 51-004
  - Price per issue/year: $8.50/$85
- Railway Carloadings, 7-day Period Ending April 21, 1986
  - Catalogue No.: 52-005
  - Price per issue/year: $75

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