May 2, 1986

Raw Materials Price Index

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMI, 1981 = 100) stood at a preliminary level of 95.3 in March 1986, down 9% from its revised February level of 104.7. Compared to March 1985 the RMI was down 19.6%. The Raw Materials Price Index excluding the mineral fuels component increased 0.7% over the month and now stands at a level 1.4% higher than a year ago.

The mineral fuels component (estimated from preliminary data) fell 20.2% in March 1986 to a level 38.2% lower than March 1985. The major factor for the lower index level was a 24.5% decrease in crude oil prices. The estimated crude oil index in March was 44% lower than its March 1985 level. (These March estimates will be confirmed or revised with the release of the May 1986 data.)

A 3.0% increase was registered for the vegetable products component index in March. Copper prices were up 3.3% to a level 11.5% higher than a year earlier. Precious metal prices increased 3%, and are now 14.6% higher than in March 1985. The other base metals index climbed 7.9% during the month.

The vegetable products component index increased 1.2% in March, though this index remains 11.1% below its March 1985 level. Unrefined sugar posted an increase of 18.7% to a level 32.7% higher than a year earlier.

Employment, Earnings and Hours

Preliminary data for February 1986 showed an estimated 8,872.5 thousand employees at the Canada industrial aggregate level, a decrease of 9.6 thousand (-0.1%) from January 1986. There was little or no change at the industry level. Employment declined in Nova Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia.

Average weekly earnings at the Canada industrial aggregate level decreased to $427.95 in February from $428.93 in January. Declines were noted in mining, finance, insurance and real estate.

Order the February 1986 issue of Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002, $35/$350; Contact: R. Arsenault (613-990-9900), Labour Division.

Average Weekly Earnings in Canadian Industry

February 1986

Industry Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Division</th>
<th>Average Weekly Earnings ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>$684.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forestry</td>
<td>$639.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation, Communication and other Utilities</td>
<td>$680.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>$610.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$607.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>$695.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance, Insurance and Real Estate</td>
<td>$418.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Aggregate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community, Business and Personal Services</td>
<td>$427.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>$368.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics Canada, Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002)
Industrial Product Price Index

Preliminary estimates show the Industrial Price Index (IPPI) in March 1986, adjusted to 1985, stood at 119.9 in March 1986, down 0.4% from the revised level of 120.4 for February. The year-over-year advance, calculated by comparing the level for March 1986 with the level for March 1985, was 1.3%, the smallest 12-month movement since May 1971. The monthly change was 0.2% to a level 3.0% higher than the January-February 1985 level.

The main factors in the index's monthly change were lower prices for petroleum and coal products, partly offset by higher prices of aluminum products and copper and copper alloy products, largely offset by lower prices for petroleum and coal products. Primary copper products rose by 3.1%, mostly as a result of a 3.2% jump in the prices of copper refinery shapes. Aluminum products also gained 3.1%. According to preliminary estimates, petroleum and coal products plunged by 5.7% to a level 5.9% lower than a year earlier.

The second stage intermediate goods index was down 0.4% in March 1986, but remained 4.1% lower than in March 1985. The main factors in the index's monthly change were lower prices for petroleum and coal products, partly offset by higher prices for sugar, lumber and timber and other non-ferrous metal products. Refined sugar increased by 7.1% to a level 17.5% higher than in March 1985. The key factors were lower prices for petroleum and coal products. Processed dairy products posted a gain of 3.1%. According to preliminary estimates, petroleum and coal products plunged by 5.7% to a level 5.9% lower than a year earlier.

Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance benefits totalled $956 million in February 1986, down 19.4% from a month earlier and 3.3% from February 1985. For January-February 1986, unemployment insurance benefits amounted to $2,123 million, a decrease of 1.8% from the previous period.

During February 1986, a sum of 216,000 claims for unemployment benefits were received, down 43.0% from the previous month and 9.1% from February 1985. For the first two months of 1986, a total of 596,000 claims were received, a decline of 5.6% as compared with the same period in 1985.

For the week ending February 15, 1986, the number of beneficiaries stood at 1,265,000, down 0.2% from a month earlier and 9.9% from February 1985.

Unemployment insurance benefits are calculated by the Employment Insurance Administration of the Canada Employment Service. The number of beneficiaries includes persons receiving both unemployment insurance and Employment Insurance benefits.

Canadian Homicide Statistics

A total of 689 homicide offences (victims) were reported in Canada in 1985, up 3.4% from 667 reported in 1984. Preliminary data released by the Canadian Centre of Justice Statistics show that the number of homicides reported in 1985, 639, was classified by the police as murders. Sixty-six (6.2%) were classified as nonsensical and 71 (11.0%) were infanticides.

The greatest number of homicide offences were in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. These provinces accounted for 57.4% of Canada's total homicide offences reported in 1985. From 1984 to 1985, Alberta showed the highest percentage increase (+16.7%) in the number of homicide offences among the provinces, while Manitoba experienced the largest percentage decline in total homicide offences (-51.2%).

In addition to the increase in the total number of homicide offences in Canada from 1984 to 1985, an increase in the total homicide rate per 100,000 population was also observed (+2.72 from 2.284). With the exception of Nova Scotia, Quebec, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the total homicide rate in each province during 1985 was less than the national homicide rate of 2.72 per 100,000 population.
Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product in 1971 prices advanced 0.6% in February 1986 from the January level. Service-producing industries advanced 0.7% in February. Output of goods-producing industries rose 0.5%, following a decline in January and no growth in December. Almost two-thirds of the gain in the service-producing industries originated with telephone systems and with wholesale trade which partially recovered from a large decline in January. In addition to wholesalers of motor vehicles and parts, and miscellaneous machinery and equipment, wholesalers of lumber and building materials and "miscellaneous" wholesalers also recorded strong advances in the month, following decreases in output in January. For the second consecutive month the large increase in output in telephone systems resulted from an increase in long distance service. Other service-producing industries recording growth in February included truck transport and air transport. In both cases the advance in February exceeded the output decrease in January.

An advance of 1% in manufacturing output accounted for most of the growth in the goods-producing industries in February. Within manufacturing most of the increase was for durable goods manufacturers including motor vehicle manufacturers, and machinery and equipment producers of miscellaneous machinery, electrical industrial equipment and communication equipment. In spite of the increase in output of motor vehicle manufacturers in February, output remains almost 8% below its average level of the August to November 1985 period, the last four months of production for the new model year.

A number of output declines were reported in February in mining—iron, potash and coal mines and mining services all decreased.

Order the February 1986 issue of Gross Domestic Product by Industry (61-005, $10-$100). Contact: Ron Kennedy (613-990-9145). Industry Measures and Analysis Division.

Local Government Employment

Employment in local governments (including hospitals, local school boards and government enterprises) numbered 865,161 as of December 1985, an overall increase of 12,523 (1.5%) from December 1984. General government employees (including hospitals and local school boards) increased by 11,990 (1.4%) from the 807,095 reported in December 1984 and those in government enterprises (including electric power, public transit, telephone and gas distribution systems) increased by 1,433 (1.3%) from the 45,543 reported in December 1984.

The local government gross payroll (including overtime and retroactive payments) for October-December 1985 totalled $8,840.5 million, an increase of $364.8 million (4.7%) from the corresponding quarter of 1984.

Order the October-December 1985 issue of Local Government Employment (72-009, $10-$400), or contact M. Fathy or C. Doucet (613-991-1843/6). Public Institutions Division.

Crime Statistics

Criminal Code offences reported by police forces in 1985 increased 1.3% to 2,176,940 from 2,147,697 in 1984. The Canada crime rate (number of Criminal Code offences per 100,000 population) increased 0.4% to 8,581 in 1985 from 8,548 the previous year.

Violent offences, totalling 189,924 or 8.7% of total Criminal Code offences, increased by 5.9% in 1985. The violent crime rate per 100,000 population increased 4.9% between 1984 (714) and 1985 (749). Historically, assaults have accounted for the vast majority (over 70%) of offences within the crimes of violence category.

Property crime offences increased slightly (0.1%) from 1,408,853 in 1984 to 1,409,833 in 1985. This category continues to account for approximately two out of every three Criminal Code offences. In terms of rates per 100,000 population, the property crime rate decreased 0.8% between 1984 (5,407) and 1985 (5,400).

In 1985, a total of 57,645 narcotic/drug offences were reported by the police, up 4.9% from 1984 (54,950). The rate for narcotic/drug offences per 100,000 population in Canada rose from 219 in 1984 to 227 in 1985, an increase of 3.7%.

For further information contact: A.S. de Silva (613-990-6642) or R. Allen (613-990-6634). Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in February 1986 rose significantly for the third consecutive month, resulting in a 16.7% advance over the same period in 1985. Revised sales for January 1986 were up 16.0% from the January 1985 level.

In February 1986, all major trade groups registered increased sales from a year earlier. The most notable gains were reported by the following major trade groups: tobacco, drugs and toilet preparations (+28.0%); lumber and building materials (+27.0%); and other machinery, equipment and supplies (+25.4%). All regions posted sales increases from a year earlier, ranging from 9.8% in the Atlantic provinces.

Cumulative sales by wholesale merchants for the first two months of 1986 were up 16.4% over the January-February 1985 period.

Order the February 1986 issue of Wholesale Trade (63-008, $5-$50), or contact Gilles Bernatchez (613-991-3337). Wholesale Trade Section, Industry Division.

Railway Carloadings

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada totalled 19.7 million tonnes in March 1986, a decrease of 1.9% from the previous year. Railway carriers received an additional 1.1 million tonnes from the United States, a decrease of 15.0% from March 1985.

Total loadings in Canada for the year-to-date increased 2.8% from the 1985 period, while receipts from United States connections decreased by 1.7%.

Order the March 1986 issue of Railway Carloadings (52-001, $7.50-$75). For seasonally adjusted revenue freight loadings contact the Rail Unit (613-990-8700), Transportation Division.

Family Expenditure in Canada

The average total expenditure of families and unattached individuals living in 17 Canadian cities increased by 11% between 1982 and 1984 to $32,654 from $29,353. Over the same period, average family income increased 8%.

Between 1982 and 1984 expenditures on maintenance, additions and renovations to owner-occupied dwellings advanced 34%. Expenditures on household appliances increased by 30%. Recreation expenditures showed considerable ups and downs: expenditures on video-tape recorders and on computer equipment more than doubled, on the other hand purchases of recreational vehicles, electronic equipment components, and records and audio tapes were much lower than in 1982.

For information currently available contact the Statistics Canada reference centres or Tom Greenberg (613-990-9781). Family Expenditure Surveys Section, Household Surveys Division.
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  - Catalogue No.: 22-002
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- **Grain Trade of Canada, 1984-85**
  - Catalogue No.: 22-201
  - Price per issue/year In Canada: $32
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- **Current Economic Indicators, Vol. 2, No. 3, April 1986**
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  - Price per issue/year In Canada: $10.00
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  - Price per issue/year In Canada: $6.10
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  - Catalogue No.: 32-023
  - Price per issue/year In Canada: $6.10
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  - Catalogue No.: 32-023
  - Price per issue/year In Canada: $6.10
  - Price per issue/year Elsewhere: $7.10
  - Catalogue No.: 32-023
  - Price per issue/year In Canada: $6.10
  - Price per issue/year Elsewhere: $7.10
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  - Catalogue No.: 46-002
  - Price per issue/year In Canada: $5.50
  - Price per issue/year Elsewhere: $6.00
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  - Price per issue/year In Canada: $2.20
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  - Price per issue/year Elsewhere: $5.50
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  - Price per issue/year Elsewhere: $5.50
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  - Price per issue/year Elsewhere: $23
  - Catalogue No.: 56-001
  - Price per issue/year In Canada: $6.50
  - Price per issue/year Elsewhere: $7.50

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