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Weekly Bulletin



October 11, 1985

Canadian International Trade

On a seasonally adjusted, balance of payments basis, preliminary estimates indicate that Canada's exports recovered strongly in August, rising 11.8% or \$1.0 billion to a level of \$9.9 billion, following four consecutive monthly declines. The increase was concentrated in automotive products.

Following a 1.8% drop in July, imports increased 2.9% or \$253 million to a record level of \$8.9 billion.

The net effect of these movements was to increase the merchandise trade surplus to \$1.0 billion in August from a four-year low of \$247 million in July.

Commodity Analysis

The increase in exports in August was not widespread: nearly 90% of the \$1.0 billion increase was attributable to a \$876 million rise in end products of which the most notable change was a gain of \$672 million in automotive products. Exports of automobiles increased 31.3% to \$1.6 billion following a 4.1% decline in July and exports of trucks grew by 62.0% to \$573 million after a 26.5% drop the previous month, while automobile parts registered a more moderate growth of 9.3% to \$924 million following an increase of 3.1% in July. The short-term trend for exports of automotive products is registering an increase of 3.4% currently.

Two factors contributed to the strong movement in cars and trucks in August:

- Deliveries had been virtually halted late in July due to a haulers' strike in the United States. Haulers worked extended hours after the strike settlement on

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Help-wanted Index

The seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index (1981=100) for Canada increased 1.3% from 79 to 80 between August and September 1985. By region, the index advanced 61.2% in the Atlantic Provinces (from 139 to 224) and 3.0% in British Columbia (from 33 to 34). It remained unchanged at 44 in the Prairie Provinces while it declined 11.1% in Quebec (from 90 to 80) and 1.0% in Ontario (from 96 to 95).

The Canada average increased 8.5% from 71 to 77 between the second and third quarters of 1985. Advances between the quarters were recorded in all regions.

Order the September 1985 issue of **Help-wanted Index** (71-003, \$2.50/\$25), or contact Horst Stiebert or Jean-Pierre Maynard at (613-990-9900), Labour Division.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings(\$)	July	419.84	419.81	3.7
Labour Income (\$ million)	July*	21,068.9	20,291.6	6.7
Persons with Jobs (million)	Aug.	11.83	11.83	2.7
Unemployed	Aug.	1,253,000	1,272,000	-7.0

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	July	3,393.3	3,292.1	2.6
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	July	33,856.2	33,923.6	4.3

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	July	19,339.3	21,136.2	12.7
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	July	22,668.6	22,576.8	3.0

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Aug.	127.8	127.6	4.0
New House Price Index (1981=100)	Aug.*	96.4	95.9	1.4
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Aug.	216.1	216.9	0.8
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Aug.	152.8	154.1	-3.7
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Aug.	318.8	318.9	2.0

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	July	1,630.3	10,398.3	16.6
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	July	12,690	73,362	14.6

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	May	5,141	26,094	13.2
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	July*	33,518	258,136	5.0
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	June	6,460	49,666	10.8
Petroleum Refining (thousand cubic metres)	July	7,785	48,561	-5.6

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Aug.*	8,828	77,718	6.1
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Aug.*	8,112	67,401	9.8

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	July	19.5	138.3	0.6
Steel (ingots - thousand tonnes)	July	1,066	8,376	-3.6

SALES

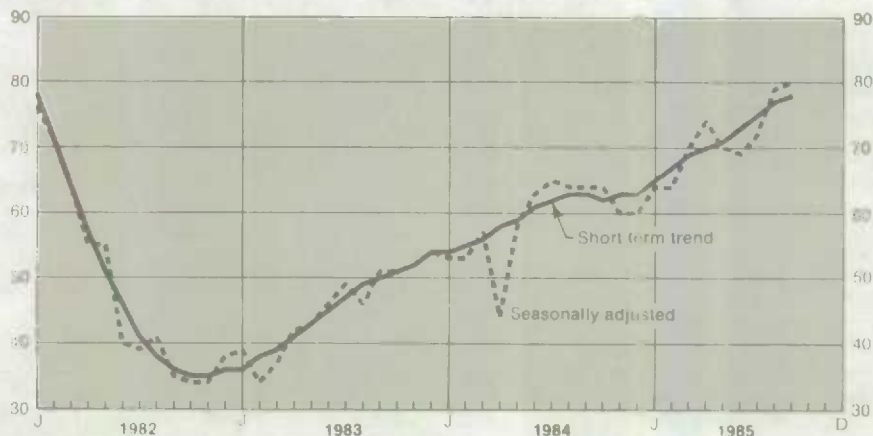
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Aug.*	979.9	6,864.0	5.4
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	July	19,247.4	138,620.8	6.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Aug.*	1,598.2	13,401.5	24.1
Retail Sales (\$ million)	July	10,656.2	70,684.5	9.7

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* - new this week.

Help-wanted Index, Canada

1981=100



Source: Statistics Canada, Help-wanted Index (71-003)

Canada

... International Trade

August 18 to bring inventories back to normal;

- Financing incentives offered on North American cars set sales records in the United States for the August 21-31 period and peak sales were continuing in early September. Increased exports in August were meeting some of this demand.

Virtually all of the increase in total imports in August can be attributed to increases posted in the automotive sector: automobile parts increased 14.5% to a level of \$1.7 billion following an increase of 5.9% in July; cars increased 4.7% to a level of \$1.0 billion after a 3.1% rise the previous month, while trucks declined more than 6.5% for the second month to a level of \$243 million. Imports of crude petroleum, following a decline of 44.4% in July, fell a further 18.3% to a level of \$236 million and imports of aircraft declined 27.3% after a gain of 23.3% in July. Offsetting the decline in August was an increase of 54.2% in petroleum and coal products.

Order the August 1985 Summary of Canadian International Trade (65-001, \$15/\$150), or contact G. Blaney (613-990-9647), Trade Information Unit, or Judith Frederick (613-990-9784), Trade Measures and Analysis Section, International Trade Division. For summary information, order Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade (65-001p, \$5/\$50).

Electric Power Statistics

The net generation of electricity in Canada in July 1985 increased by 5.9% to 33 518 gigawatt hours from 31 646 gigawatt hours a year earlier. Exports of electric power increased 13.7% to 4 335 gigawatt hours from 3 814 gigawatt hours, and imports decreased by 44.9% to 140 gigawatt hours.

During 1985 to date, the net generation of electricity totalled 258 136 gigawatt hours, up 5.0% from the January-July 1984 level of 245 904 gigawatt hours.

Order the July 1985 issue of Electric Power Statistics (57-001, \$8/\$80), or contact Dave Madsen (613-991-3565), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Vending Machine Operators

Vending machine operators in Canada reported sales of \$379.0 million in 1984, up 11.2% from \$340.9 million in 1983. The number of operators increased from 681 in 1983 to 714 in 1984, while the number of machines went up from 122,683 to 141,476 over the same period.

Following is a breakdown of sales by type of machine in the latest year, with percentage changes from 1983 in brackets:

- Cigarette machines - 23,032 units, \$119.5 million (+2.2%);
- Coffee machines - 36,383 units, \$81.3 million (+31.9%);
- Soft drink machines - 27,221 units, \$74.0 million (+6.4%);
- Milk, juices and hot and cold beverage combination machines - 3,613 units, \$16.7 million (+6.0%);
- Packaged confections, pastry, snack and confectionery combination machines -

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Estimates of Labour Income

Labour income for July 1985 was estimated at \$21,068.9 million, an increase of \$1,316.6 million or 6.7% from July 1984.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries increased by \$202.5 million between June 1985 and July 1985 to \$18,827.3 million.

Order the July-September 1985 issue of Estimates of Labour Income (72-005, \$15/\$60), or contact Georgette Gauthier (613-990-9900), Labour Income Section, Labour Division.

Provincial and Territorial Government Employment

Employees of provincial and territorial governments and government enterprises totalled 652,931 as of June 1985, an overall increase of 10,148 (1.6%) from June 1984. General government employees increased by 11,638 (2.4%) while those in government enterprises declined by 1,490 (-0.9%).

Gross payroll (including overtime and retroactive payments) for April-June 1985 was \$4,305.6 million, an increase of \$152.6 million (3.7%) from the corresponding quarter in 1984.

Order the April-June 1985 issue of Provincial and Territorial Government Employment (72-007, \$15/\$60), or for further information contact Terry Moore (613-990-8306) or Peter Dudley (613-991-1845), Public Institutions Division.

- 14,526 units, \$54.2 million (+12.9%);
- Fresh food combination machines - 4,335 units, \$24.5 million (+16.8%);
- All other vending machines - 32,366 units, \$8.7 million (+10.4%).

Order the 1984 edition of Vending Machine Operators (63-213, \$15), or contact Gilles Couturier (613-991-3551), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

Divorces - Canada and Provinces

A total of 65,172 divorces were recorded in Canada in 1984, down about 5% from a total of 68,567 for 1983. Declines were observed in all provinces and in the Northwest Territories.

Order Marriages and Divorces, 1984 (84-205, \$12/\$13), or contact Jean Shane (613-991-1772), Health Division.

Provincial Government Finance

The financial assets of provincial and territorial governments stood at \$85,942.7 million on March 31, 1984, up 7.7% or \$6,117.1 million from the March 31, 1983 total of \$79,825.6 million.

Liabilities during 1983 increased 14.4% or \$12,066.9 million to \$96,007.0 million compared to \$83,940.1 million the previous year.

Order the 1983 issue of Provincial Government Finance: Assets, Liabilities and Source and Application of Funds (68-209, \$25), or contact P.A. Blouin (613-990-8563), Assets and Liabilities Section, Public Institutions Division.

Principal Field Crops

Canadian production of the seven major grains, including grain corn, is estimated at 48.8 million tonnes, up 6% from 1984. Production in Western Canada of the major grains, excluding corn, is estimated at 38.0 million tonnes, a 6% increase from last year's drought-reduced harvest, but 7% below the 1983 harvest.

Western wheat production is estimated at 21.0 million tonnes, up 4% from 1984. Durum wheat production, concentrated in the southern prairies, dropped 10% from 1984 despite record seeded acreage this year. Durum yield is placed at 16.0 bushels per acre, the lowest since 1967. Western Canadian production of barley is estimated at 10.4 million tonnes, up 13% from 1984 and remains similar to the August 15 estimate. Western production of oats is up 7% from 1984 and up 3% from the August estimate.

Western Canadian production of canola-rapeseed is estimated at 3 116 thousand tonnes, a 7% decrease from 1984. Flaxseed production is expected to total 900 thousand tonnes, up 30% over last year and the highest since 1970.

Ontario growers anticipate grain corn production of 5 609 thousand tonnes, up 4% from the 1984 record production. Soybean production is expected to reach an unprecedented 1 029 thousand tonnes, 10% more than last year's record. The winter wheat output is estimated at a record 971.6 thousand tonnes with a record yield of 68.0 bushels per acre, surpassing the previous record by 10.6 bushels per acre.

Quebec grain corn production, a record, is estimated to increase by 11% from 1984. Barley is expected to increase by 30% while oats will decrease by 6%.

Contact the Crops Section, Agriculture and Natural Resources Division (613-990-8717).

New Motor Vehicle Sales

Sales of all new motor vehicles totalled 123,717 units in August 1985, up 26.9% from August 1984. The principal factors accounting for the high level of sales in August were the sales of passenger cars built overseas, which reached 30,850 units, up 50.8% from August 1984, and the sales of commercial vehicles, domestic and imported, which totalled 31,842 units, up 39.1% over this same period. Likewise, sales of North American manufactured passenger cars increased 12.8% over this period to 61,025 units, while sales of North American manufactured commercial vehicles rose by 43.9% to 27,274 units.

The Canadian sales of North American manufactured vehicles were to some extent influenced by sales incentive programs such as consumer financing discounts and specified option packages.

The 50.8% year-over-year rise in sales for overseas-built passenger cars comprised increases of 17.9% for Japanese automobiles (16,960 units) and 125.8% for passenger cars imported from other countries (13,890 units).

The share of the Canadian passenger car market held by North American manufacturers in August 1985 (based on unit sales) was 66.4%, down sharply from the 72.6% recorded in August 1984. Japanese manufacturers held a market share of 18.5% compared to 19.3% a year earlier. Manufacturers from other countries held 15.1% of the passenger car market, a substantial increase from the 8.1% held in August 1984.

The total dollar value of all new motor vehicles sold in August 1985 increased by 34.7% from a year earlier to \$1,598.2 million.

Sales of North American passenger cars reached \$739.4 million, up 20.9% over the corresponding month in 1984. The total sales of commercial vehicles built in North America amounted to \$451.0 million, up 52.1%. Sales of overseas passenger cars rose 49.9% to \$356.1 million while sales of commercial vehicles increased 26.8% to reach \$51.7 million.

With the exception of Prince Edward Island, which reported a decrease of 2.0%, all the remaining provinces registered higher unit sales of motor vehicles in August 1985 compared to August 1984. The gains ranged from 8.1% in New Brunswick to 57.8% in Alberta.

Total sales in units reported for the first eight months of 1985 increased 17.4% over the same period last year to reach 1,047,711 units, valued at \$13,401.5 million, a gain of 24.1%.

Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, preliminary estimates of unit sales of passenger cars built in North America totalled 67,675 units, up 13.5% from the previous month. Seasonally adjusted sales of passenger cars built overseas increased 1.3% to reach 31,411 units, while total sales of commercial vehicles, both domestic and overseas, were higher by 6.9%, totalling 34,888 units.

Order the August 1985 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007, \$8/\$80), or contact Michael Kwilecki (613-991-3549) or Lina Di Pietro (613-990-9824), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

Security Transactions with Non-residents

Net sales of outstanding Canadian bonds to non-residents gave rise to a net capital inflow of \$364 million in August, \$58 million higher than in July. The net inflow in August included substantial investments in provincial and corporate bonds. Geographically, over half of the net bond sales were to Japan.

Trading with non-residents in outstanding Canadian equities resulted in a net outflow of \$25 million in August. This contrasted with the sizeable net inflows recorded in the previous six months, which totalled over \$600 million. The net disinvestment in equities largely resulted from trading with the United Kingdom, partially offset by a small net inflow from the United States.

A net inflow of \$14 million was recorded from trading in outstanding foreign securities, reflecting a reduction in resident holdings of foreign equities.

Order the August 1985 issue of *Security Transactions with Non-residents* (67-002, \$15/\$150), or contact J. Motala (613-990-9052), Balance of Payments, International and Financial Economics Division.

Housing Starts

Housing starts in August were at a seasonally adjusted rate of 169,000 units for all areas, a 4.3% increase from July. This annual peak was led by a sustained increase in the single family dwelling sector. Quebec and Ontario were the most active markets.

Order the August 1985 issue of *Housing Starts and Completions* (64-002, \$15/\$150), scheduled for release the second week of November, or contact P. Pichette (613-990-9689), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

New Housing Price Indexes

The New Housing Price Index (1981=100) for Canada stood at 96.4 in August 1985, up 0.5% from its July level of 95.9. This index of Canadian housing contractors' selling prices now stands 1.4% higher than the year-earlier level of 95.1, the largest 12-month increase observed since May 1984.

Between July 1985 and August 1985 the largest increases in the price index were noted for Hamilton (1.6%), Edmonton (1.4%) and Kitchener (1.1%).

Between August 1984 and August 1985, the largest year-over-year increase was noted for St. Catharines-Niagara (13.3%), followed by Kitchener (11.3%), Saint John-Moncton (9.5%), Hamilton (7.4%), Halifax (6.8%), Windsor (6.0%), Quebec City (5.1%), Winnipeg (4.9%), Montreal (3.9%), London (3.9%), Calgary (3.7%), Toronto (3.3%), Regina (3.1%), Saskatoon (2.0%) and St. John's (1.5%).

The largest year-over-year decrease was noted for Victoria (-6.5%), followed by Vancouver (-5.0%), Edmonton (-4.3%) and Ottawa-Hull (-1.9%).

Order the third quarter 1985 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), or contact the Prices Division (613-990-9601).

Department Store Sales by Regions

Department stores in Canada reported sales totalling \$979.9 million in August 1985, an increase of 12.3% from a year earlier.

Cumulative sales for the period January to August 1985 totalled \$6,864.0 million, up 5.4% from the same period in 1984.

On a regional basis, department store sales during the month were as follows (percentage change from August 1984 in parentheses):

- Atlantic Provinces, \$72.8 million (+9.3%);
- Quebec, \$190.3 million (+16.2%);
- Ontario, \$358.0 million (+14.7%);
- Manitoba, \$51.0 million (+11.9%);
- Saskatchewan, \$31.5 million (+15.5%);
- Alberta, \$129.1 million (+10.5%);
- British Columbia, \$147.4 million (+7.1%).

Data users should note that since January 1985, total sales for the Yukon and Northwest Territories are not included with British Columbia's total.

Order the August 1985 issue of *Department Store Sales by Regions* (63-004, \$4/\$40), or contact Lina Di Pietro, Retail Trade Section (613-990-9824), Industry Division.

Restaurants/Caterers/Taverns

Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts totalled \$1,146.2 million for August 1985, an increase of 10.3% from the \$1,039.0 million reported for the same period last year.

Order the August 1985 issue of *Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns* (63-011, \$5/\$50), or contact E. Yablonski (613-990-9662), Services Division.

Cable Television

Preliminary estimates show cable television revenues for the year ended August 31, 1984 were \$593 million, up 11% from \$535 million in the preceding fiscal year.

Programming, technical, sales and administrative expenses increased 13% to \$366 million from \$325 million a year earlier. Depreciation was estimated at \$90 million, interest at \$68 million and other income was \$1 million. Pre-tax profits totalled \$69 million compared to \$65 million in 1983.

Order the Vol. 15, no. 6 *Communications Service Bulletin* (56-001, \$6.50/\$39), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-990-8693), Services Division.

Telephone Statistics

The 14 major telephone systems reported revenues of \$9.1 billion in 1984, up 8.9% over 1983. Operating expenses totalled \$6.1 billion, an increase of 8.1% over 1983. Net operating revenue reached \$3.0 billion, an increase of 10.5% over 1983. Telephone toll messages increased 6.5% to 1.6 billion.

Order the Vol. 15, no. 7 *Communications Service Bulletin* (56-001, \$6.50/\$39), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-990-8693), Services Division.



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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED OCTOBER 4-10

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES			
Field Crop Reporting Series, No. 7: September Forecast of Production of Principal Field Crops, Canada	22-002	\$7/\$48	\$8/\$54
Index of Farm Production, 1984	21-203	\$17	\$18
Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry, July 1985	23-003	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, September 1985	32-012	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
CANSIM			
Canadian Statistical Review, September 1985	11-003E	\$20/\$200	\$21.50/\$215
ECONOMETRIC ANALYSIS			
Quarterly Economic Summary: Statistical Supplement, October 1985	13-007E	\$25/\$100	\$26/\$104
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM			
Arts and Culture: a Statistical Profile, 1982/1983	87-527	\$14	\$15
GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT			
National Income and Expenditure Accounts, Second Quarter 1985	13-001	\$15/\$60	\$16/\$64
INDUSTRY			
Agricultural Implement Industry, 1983	42-202	\$20	\$21
Appliance, Radio and Television Manufacturers, 1983	43-212	\$20	\$21
Biscuit Manufacturers, 1983	32-202	\$20	\$21
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables, July 1985	32-011	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Commercial Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Equipment Manufacturers, 1983	42-215	\$20	\$21
Consumption of Purchased Fuel and Electricity, 1982	57-208	\$20	\$21
Electric Lamps, August 1985	43-009	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, July 1985	31-001	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
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Paint and Varnish Manufacturers, 1983	46-210	\$20	\$21
Pharmaceuticals, Cleaning Compounds and Toilet Preparations, 1983	46-223	\$20	\$21
Retail Trade, July 1985	63-005	\$14/\$140	\$15/\$150
Rubber Products Industries, 1983	33-206	\$20	\$21
The Sugar Situation, August 1985	32-013	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Wholesale Trade, July 1985	63-008	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
INTERNATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS			
Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments, Second Quarter 1985	67-001	\$25/\$100	\$26/\$104
INTERNATIONAL TRADE			
Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, August 1985	65-001p	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
LABOUR			
Employment, Earnings and Hours, June 1985	72-002	\$35/\$350	\$36.50/\$365
Estimates of Labour Income, April-June 1985	72-005	\$15/\$60	\$16/\$64
Unemployment Insurance Statistics, July 1985	73-001	\$12/\$120	\$13/\$130
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK			
Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing, Second Quarter 1985	31-003	\$20/\$80	\$21/\$84

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