

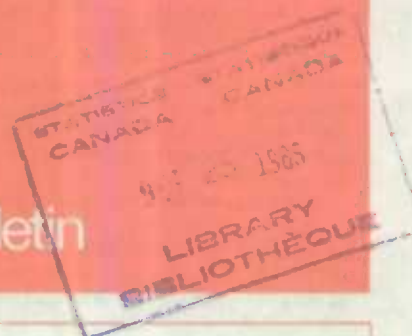


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Weekly Bulletin



October 25, 1985

Employment, Earnings and Hours

Preliminary data for August 1985 (not seasonally adjusted) showed an estimated 9,084.2 thousand employees for the Canada industrial aggregate, down slightly from the July 1985 estimate of 9,089.6 thousand. A marginal decrease was noted in community, business and personal services while slight increases were registered in trade and transportation, communication and other utilities. Decreases were registered in Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, while the remaining provinces increased or remained unchanged.

Average weekly earnings at the Canada industrial aggregate level were estimated at \$419.58 for August, virtually unchanged from \$420.00 in July. Decreases registered in community, business and personal services and in mines, quarries and oil wells were offset by increases in forestry and in manufacturing. All provinces registered decreases except British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Order the August 1985 issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, \$35/\$350), or contact Jack Beauregard (613-990-9900), Labour Division.

Building Construction Activity

The leading indicator of building construction activity in Canada (1981=100) continued to rise in June to 86.4, up 3.0% from the previous month. Since the beginning of the year this index has increased 20%, representing a month-to-month average rise of 3.3%. Both the residential and to a lesser extent the non-residential sectors were responsible for the increase recorded in June.

The filtered index of residential construction continued to rise in June to 91.7, up 4.4% from May. The strengthening of construction intentions recorded in both single and multi-family dwelling sectors supported this marked increase. Construction of new dwellings was positively influenced by the continuing decrease of interest rates. On a regional basis, the trend-cycle of building permits issued indicated gains in all regions.

The filtered index of non-residential construction (excluding engineering projects) rose 1.3% in June to 80.8. All components of the index were up: the governmental sector increased strongly (Continued on page 2, col. 2)

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

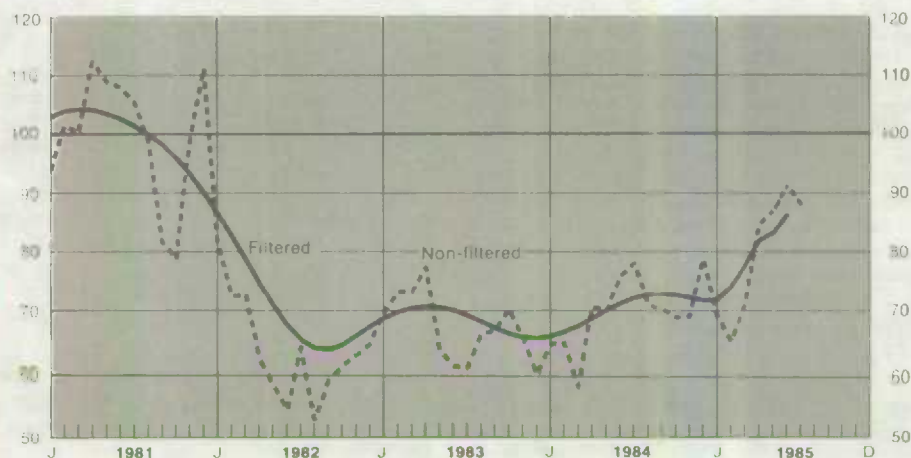
			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings(\$)	July	419.84	419.81	3.7
Labour Income (\$ million)	July	21,068.9	20,291.6	6.7
Persons with Jobs (million)	Sept.	11.47	11.83	2.7
Unemployed	Sept.	1,183,000	1,253,000	-13.2
INVENTORIES				
Department Store (\$ million)	July	3,393.3	3,292.1	2.6
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Aug.*	34,132.2	33,856.2	3.8
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Aug.*	20,249.2	19,339.3	5.3
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Aug.*	22,764.5	22,668.6	2.1
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1981 = 100)	Sept.*	128.0	127.8	4.1
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	10,396.3	16.6
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	July	12,690	73,362	14.6
ENERGY				
Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	July	4 712	35 937	12.0
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	July	33 518	258 136	5.0
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	June	6 460	49 666	10.6
Petroleum Refining (thousand cubic metres)	Aug.*	7 851	56 560	-4.8
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	9.6
PRODUCTION				
Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Aug.	18.9	157.2	-0.7
Steel (ingots - thousand tonnes)	Sept.	1 250	10 812	-1.9
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	979.9	6,864.0	5.4
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Aug.*	20,089.6	158,685.8	6.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	1,598.2	13,401.5	24.1
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	11,133.4	81,872.8	10.2

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* - new this week.

Indexes of Construction Activity in Canada

1981=100



Source: Statistics Canada, Building Permits (64-001)

Canada

Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada (1981 = 100) rose 0.2% between August and September to a level of 128.0. A 1.1% decline in the food index partially offset increases in the six other major components, particularly a 1.2% rise in the transportation index and a 0.7% increase in the clothing index.

The year-to-year increase in the CPI, as measured by comparing the index level for September 1985 to that of September 1984, was 4.1%, up slightly from the 4.0% registered in the 12-month period ending in August, but continuing the trend of year-to-year increases around the 4.0% level.

The food index declined 1.1% in September, as the food purchased from stores index fell 1.7% while the food purchased from restaurants index rose 0.4%. The largest contribution to the overall decrease in food prices came from a 15.5% decline in the fresh vegetables index as the warm September weather extended the local crop season. A 5.0% fall in the fresh fruit index was also a major contributor to the decrease in food prices. The 2.3% decline in the fresh or frozen meat index also had a significant effect on the overall decrease in the food index. The index for food purchased from stores stood 1.1% above its level for September 1984 while the index for food purchased from restaurants was 4.5% higher than it was in September 1984. The resulting year-to-year increase in the aggregate food index was 2.0%, down from the 2.4% recorded in August.

The 0.5% increase in the all-items excluding food index resulted mainly from a 1.2% increase in the transportation index as well as from rises of 0.7% in the clothing index and 0.8% in the recreation, reading and education index. The 1.2% increase in the transportation index was a result of an increase in the private transportation index of 1.6%, offset to some extent by a decrease of 1.3% in the public transportation index. The rise in the private transportation index was essentially attributable to an increase in gasoline prices as the two cent per litre increase in the federal excise tax was passed on to the consumer. The public transportation index decline was almost entirely due to a 2.5% decrease in prices for air transportation, in spite of the removal of the \$30 ceiling on the air transportation tax for North American flights. The 0.7% increase in the clothing index was the net result of price increases in women's wear (1.1%) and men's wear (0.6%) as new fall lines were introduced. The 0.8% increase in the recreation, reading and education index was largely due to a 5.0% increase in tuition fees for post-secondary education, which rose in all provinces except Quebec where fees remained unchanged. Between September 1984 and September 1985, the all-items excluding food index rose 4.5%, up from the 4.3% recorded in the 12-month period ending in August.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the all-items index rose by 0.3% between August and September, as did the all-items excluding food index. The food index showed no change on a seasonally adjusted basis. During the three-month period June to September, the seasonally adjusted all-

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales rose at a more moderate rate in August 1985, resulting in a 9.6% advance over August 1984, compared to the revised increase of 17.6% registered between July 1984 and July 1985.

In August 1985, all major trade groups except farm machinery, equipment and supplies (-2.5%) registered increased sales from a year earlier. The most notable gains were reported by the following major trade groups: motor vehicles and accessories (+30.7%); tobacco, drugs and toilet preparations (+14.7%); and other machinery, equipment and supplies (+14.2%).

All regions posted sales increases from a year earlier, ranging from 6.1% in Quebec to 15.4% in British Columbia (including the Yukon and Northwest Territories).

Cumulative sales by wholesale merchants for the first eight months of 1985 were up 11.1% over the January-August 1984 period. Significant gains were reported by wholesalers of motor vehicles and accessories (+20.3%); metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment (+17.2%); and other machinery, equipment and supplies (+16.9%).

Inventories

Wholesale inventories in August 1985 increased by 5.3% over the corresponding period in 1984. Revised inventories for July 1985 were up 4.9% from the July 1984 level.

The ratio of inventories to sales at the end of August 1985 stood at 1.56:1, down from 1.62:1 a year earlier.

Order the August 1985 issue of Wholesale Trade (63-008, \$5/\$50), or contact Gilles Berniquez (613-991-3537), Wholesale Trade Section, Industry Division.

... Building Construction

(+3.0%) while more moderate gains were recorded by the commercial (+1.0%) and industrial (+1.9%) sectors. The trend-cycle of non-residential permits issued shows the situation improved in Quebec and Ontario while the other provinces reported a levelling-off.

Order the July 1985 issue of Building Permits (64-001, \$20/\$200), or contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-990-9689), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

items index rose at a compounded annual rate of 3.2%.

City Highlights

Between August and September, consumer price changes in cities for which CPIs are published ranged from -0.4% for Victoria to 0.6% for Saint John. The lower than average price change in Victoria was principally due to a decline in gasoline prices due to "price wars". The higher than average rise in Saint John was due to greater price increases in women's and men's clothing and in gasoline as "price wars" there ended.

Order the September 1985 issue of The Consumer Price Index (62-001, \$8/\$80), or contact Sandra Shadlock (613-990-9606), Prices Division.

Family Food Expenditure in Canada - Selected Cities

The average weekly food expenditure of families and unattached individuals increased by 8.2% between 1982 and 1984. However, the dollar share of food purchased from restaurants remained unchanged at 29.1%.

While the overall average weekly food expenditure was \$80, this figure ranged from \$43 in the lowest family income group to \$121 in the highest group.

The average expenditure increased with family size from \$44 for unattached individuals to \$120 for families of five or more persons.

Order Family Food Expenditure in Canada - Selected Cities 1984 (62-554, \$24). Average weekly expenditure and food quantity information for a detailed list of food commodity groups is available by city and by a number of family characteristics. These tabulations are available on microfiche in Statistics Canada reference centres, or contact Tom Greenberg (613-990-9781), Family Expenditure Survey, Household Surveys Division.

Refined Petroleum Products

Preliminary figures show that in August 1985, sales of refined petroleum products in Canada decreased by 0.7% from a year earlier. Cumulative figures for the first eight months of 1985 show sales of petroleum products fell 1.6% from the 1984 level.

During August 1985, sales of petroleum products by Canadian refiners and major distributors amounted to 6 817 300 cubic metres, down 0.7% from the level recorded in August 1984. Sales of the main products, with the percentage change from August 1984 in brackets, were as follows: motor gasoline, 3 126 000 cubic metres (-1.8%); kerosene stove oil, 36 100 cubic metres (+2.5%); diesel fuel, 1 370 900 cubic metres (-3.95%); light fuel oil, 196 000 cubic metres (+44.4%) and heavy fuel oil, 348 300 cubic metres (-21.6%).

Production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners amounted to 7 851 000 cubic metres, down 2.0% from August 1984.

For the first eight months of 1985, sales of refined petroleum products amounted to 51 250 286 cubic metres, down 1.6% from the level recorded during the same period of 1984. Year-to-date sales of the main products with the percentage change from January to August 1984 sales in brackets, were as follows: motor gasoline, 21 853 021 cubic metres (-0.5%); kerosene stove oil, 509 273 cubic metres (-0.9%); diesel fuel, 9 783 630 cubic metres (+0.1%); light fuel oil, 4 909 583 cubic metres (-7.2%) and heavy fuel oil, 3 783 011 cubic metres (-21.6%).

Year-to-date production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners amounted to 56 560 440 cubic metres, down 4.8% from the same period in 1984.

Order the August 1985 issue of Refined Petroleum Products (45-004, \$15/\$150), or contact Gérard O'Connor (613-991-3562), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Inventories, Shipments and Orders

Preliminary estimates show the seasonally adjusted value of shipments in all Canadian manufacturing industries increased 1.5% to \$20,965.5 million in August from the revised estimate of \$20,649.9 million in July.

The seasonally adjusted value of new orders received in August increased 1.2% to \$21,114.5 million from the revised July estimate of \$20,864.1 million.

The seasonally adjusted unfilled orders backlog at the end of August was \$22,733.2 million, up 0.7% from the revised July estimate of \$22,584.3 million.

Seasonally adjusted inventories owned by manufacturers at the end of August totalled \$34,375.9 million, up 0.3% from the previous month's revised value of \$34,287.9 million.

The ratio of seasonally adjusted total inventory owned to seasonally adjusted shipments went from 1.66:1 in July to 1.64:1 in August.

Not adjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in August 1985 were estimated at \$20,089.6 million, 4.5% higher than the revised July value of \$19,222.8 million. Cumulative shipments for the first eight months of 1985, at an estimated \$158,685.8 million, were up 6.5% from the \$149,064.9 million estimated for the same period in 1984.

Order the August 1985 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, \$15/\$150), or contact J. Lepage (613-990-8834), *Shipments, Inventories and Orders Section, Industry Division*.

Sales of Natural Gas

Sales of natural gas by main distributors amounted to 2 602 894 thousand cubic metres during August 1985, a 6.0% increase from the level recorded the previous year. On the basis of rate structure information sales were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from August 1984 in brackets: residential sales, 325 390 thousand cubic metres (+7.3); commercial sales, 314 310 thousand cubic metres (+10.2) and industrial sales, 1963 194 thousand cubic metres (+5.1).

Order the August 1985 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$10/\$100), or contact Gary Smalldridge (613-991-3567), *Energy Section, Industry Division*.

Gas Utilities

Preliminary data show sales of natural gas in Canada amounted to 2 505 million cubic metres in July 1985, an increase of 3.8% from 2 413 million cubic metres a year earlier.

Reported exports to the United States totalled 1 624 million cubic metres during July 1985, up 21.5% from 1 337 million cubic metres in July 1984.

Order the July 1985 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$10/\$100), or contact Gary Smalldridge (613-991-3567), *Energy Section, Industry Division*.

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The Labour Force Participation of Canada's Immigrants

This feature article appears in the September issue of *The Labour Force* and contains a brief review of Canada's immigration policy and a profile of immigrants to Canada in terms of their place of birth and the period during which they came to Canada.

This paper is based on 1981 Census of Population data and its main focus is on the labour force participation rates of the immigrant population. These participation rates are examined and compared to those of the Canadian-born population.

Given that different age groups tend to participate in the labour force at different rates, it is important to note that the age distributions of immigrants and non-immigrants differ significantly and must be taken into account in any analysis dealing with participation rates.

The following are some of the main findings of this study:

- When adjusted for age distribution differentials, the participation rate for immigrants exceeds the rate for those born in Canada (only slightly for males but to a greater extent for females);
- The more recent the period of immigration, the lower are the age-adjusted participation rates of immigrants, regardless of their place of birth;
- The birthplaces of immigrants showing the highest participation rates differ between men and women: in general, men from European countries have the highest adjusted participation rates, while women with the highest participation rates are from the Caribbean and Southeast Asia.

Order the September 1985 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, \$20/\$200), or contact Nancy McLaughlin (613-990-9452), *Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division*.

Canadian Composite Leading Indicator

The composite leading index recorded its second consecutive increase in July (+0.4%), following a slow descent between August 1984 and May 1985. The index declined from a peak of 159.9 in July 1984 to a trough of 154.4 in May 1985, before rising to 155.1 in July 1985.

The recent upturn, together with the third straight substantial increase in the non-filtered version, reinforces the short term prospects for continued growth.

The manufacturing indicators were the principal force behind the July increase, although the indicators of household demand also continued to rise.

Order *Current Economic Indicators* (13-005, \$10/\$100), or contact D. Rhoades (613-990-9161), *Econometric Analysis Division*.

Federal Government Employment

Employees of the federal government (including members of the Canadian Armed Forces) and government enterprises numbered 602,887 as of June 1985, an overall increase of 3,923 (0.7%) from June 1984.

General government employees increased by 2,191 (0.6%), and those in government enterprises (including the Canada Post Corporation) grew by 1,732 (0.8%).

The growth in general government employment in the latest period was due primarily to increased hiring of summer students under the Challenge '85 Program, funded by Employment and Immigration in conjunction with other summer employment programs funded by individual departments. The most significant increases (due to this factor) were in National Revenue, Taxation 1,655 (7.3%) and National Defence 1,277 (1.0%). These increases were partly offset by decreases in staffs in a number of departments due to the government restraint program and/or reduced summer employment. Decreases were recorded in Environment 1,674 (-12.3%) and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited 391 (-5.4%).

Government enterprises now include the Canada Post Corporation which was part of the general government sector in previous periods. The increase in government enterprise employment was primarily due to a growth in the Canada Post Corporation, de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited and Petro-Canada. These increases were partly offset by layoffs in the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Gross payroll (including overtime and retroactive payments) for April-June 1985 was \$4,572.7 million, an increase of \$182.8 million (4.2%) over the corresponding quarter in 1984.

Order the April-June 1985 issue of the publication *Federal Government Employment* (72-004, \$20/\$80), or contact T. Moore or M. Fathy (613-990-8305), *Public Institutions Division*.



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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED OCTOBER 18-24

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES			
Farm Cash Receipts, January-August 1985	21-001	\$7/\$70	\$8/\$80
Fruit and Vegetable Production, October 1985	22-003	\$8/\$60	\$9/\$68
DEMOGRAPHY			
Quarterly Estimates of Population for Canada, the Provinces and the Territories, July 1985	91-001	\$6/\$24	\$7/\$28
HOUSEHOLD SURVEY			
The Labour Force, September 1985	71-001	\$20/\$200	\$21.50/\$215
INDUSTRY			
Asphalt Roofing, August 1985	45-001	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Cement, August 1985	44-001	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Construction Type Plywood, August 1985	35-001	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Electric Power Statistics, July 1985	57-001	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
Footwear Statistics, August 1985	33-002	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Gas Utilities, June 1985	55-002	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
Leather Industries, 1983	33-207	\$20	\$21
Non-ferrous Metal Rolling, Casting and Extruding, 1983	41-230	\$20	\$21
Oil Pipe Line Transport, 1984	55-201	\$20	\$21
Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard, August 1985	36-003	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
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Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, July 1985	35-002	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, July 1985	35-003	\$6/\$60	\$7/\$70
Pulp and Paper Mills, 1983	36-204	\$20	\$21
Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, August 1985	25-001	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
Rigid Insulating Board, August 1985	36-002	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
LABOUR			
Employment, Earnings and Hours, July 1985	72-002	\$35/\$350	\$36.50/\$365
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Consumer Price Index, September 1985	62-001P	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS			
Federal Government Finance, 1983	68-211	\$20	\$21
SERVICES			
Cable Television Statistics, 1984	56-001	\$6.50/\$39	\$7.50/\$45
TRANSPORTATION			
Railway Carloadings, 9-Day Period Ending September 30, 1985	52-005	\$75	\$100
Railway Carloadings, August 1985	52-001	\$7.50/\$75	\$8.50/\$85

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