

Statistics
CanadaStatistique
Canada

infomat

Weekly Bulletin

STATISTICS
CANADASTATISTIQUE
CANADA

MAR 1 1985

LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE

March 1, 1985

The Leading Indicator

The leading indicator declined at about the same rate in November 1984 (-0.7%) as experienced in October. Reaching a level of 157.1, November marked the fourth consecutive month of decline compared to the peak of 159.9 in July 1984, and a trough of 112.5 in September 1982. The previous peak was 145.3 set in July 1981.

The size of the decline in November results from accentuated drops in two components compared to October, namely, the residential construction index (-2.6%) and the proxy of manufacturer's profit margins (-0.2%). This was offset by more moderate declines in the other components, including components related to household demand which turned up marginally. This reduced the diffusion of declines amongst the 10 components from nine to six.

Both furniture and appliance sales and new motor vehicle sales edged up, by 0.3% and 0.2% respectively in November, after declining for three consecutive months. These slow increases are in line with the growth of consumer demand in 1984. Employment in trade and services continued to increase in the fourth quarter (1.3%), and labour income rose 1.9% in October and November from the third quarter average.

(continued on page 2, col. 1)

Employment and Earnings

The preliminary estimates of employment for the Canada industrial aggregate level decreased by 1.1% from November to December 1984. All industry divisions reported declines except mining, trade and finance, insurance and real estate. All provinces and territories contributed to the overall decrease.

Average weekly earnings at the Canada industrial aggregate level decreased by 0.5% from \$410.80 in November to \$408.55 in December. All industry divisions decreased except finance, insurance and real estate and service. Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan registered increases in average weekly earnings; the remaining provinces and territories reported declines.

Order the December 1984 issue of Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002, \$5.55/\$5.50) or contact the Labour Division (613-990-9900).

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Dec.	408.55	410.80	3.2
Labour Income (\$ million)	Nov.	20,001.9	20,004.3	6.9
Persons with Jobs (million)	Jan.	10.68	10.97	2.3
Unemployed	Jan.	1,483,000	1,316,000	0.7

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Dec.	3,142.7	3,950.5	-2.5
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Dec.	33,195.8	32,770.3	8.3

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Dec.	17,830.2	19,827.3	8.7
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Dec.	22,110.3	22,210.4	10.0

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Jan.	124.6	124.1	3.7
New House Price Index (1981=100)	Dec.	94.7	94.5	-0.1
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Jan.	222.0	221.7	3.6
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Jan.	156.7	156.3	-0.6
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Jan.	315.5	314.3	3.3

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Nov.	1,140.3	14,021.6	3.6
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Dec.	8,792	110,874	-17.4

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Nov.	5,212	52,355	29.3
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Nov.	37.5	383.8	8.2
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Nov.	8,570	79,844	8.6
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Nov.	7.2	79.8	1.2

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Dec.	8,999	112,510	23.9
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Dec.	6,905	91,679	25.4

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Dec.	16.9	240.0	15.9
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Jan.	1,152	1,152	6.1

SALES

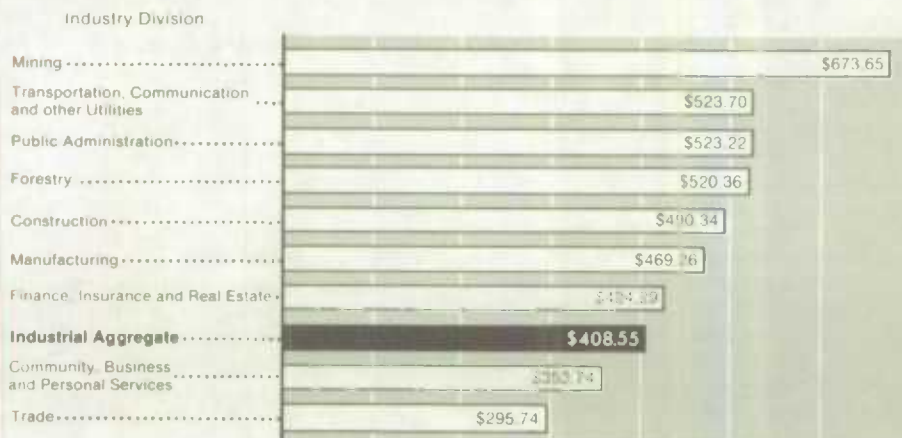
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Dec.	1,718.0	11,384.7	4.2
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Dec.	17,930.3	225,817.1	13.2
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Dec.	1,072.6	15,679.8	28.6
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Dec.	11,854.0	114,917.3	8.2

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* - new this week.

Average Weekly Earnings in Canadian Industry

December 1984*



Source: Statistics Canada, Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002)

* Preliminary Estimates

Canada

... The Leading Indicator

The residential construction index recorded a second consecutive decline in November (-2.6%) after a brief upturn during the summer months. The index has generally been in decline since July 1983.

The indicators for the manufacturing sector were little changed in November, a continuation of the inertia evident since the summer. New orders for durable goods increased by 0.04%, while the average work-week posted a decline of the same magnitude, to 38.5 hours, and the ratio of shipments to finished goods stocks was unchanged at 1.68. The indicator of profit margins declined for the fourth consecutive month. Unit labour costs increased for the third consecutive month, a reflection of the more marked slowdown of output relative to employment.

The leading indicator for the United States declined slightly for the fifth straight month in November (-0.3%), in line with the drop of Canadian exports to the U.S. in the fourth quarter. The magnitude of the drop in the U.S. leading index was about the same as in October, as orders for household goods increased slightly and as building permits rebounded to recoup their third quarter losses. Preliminary data for December reinforced these upward movements.

The financial market indicators continued to firm in November: the Toronto stock index registered a third consecutive gain (+1.5%), while the decline in the real money supply continued to ease (-0.5%). These indexes have the longest lead time in signalling turning points in the economy.

Contact D. Rhoades (613-990-9161), *Econometric Analysis Division*.

Raw Materials Price Index

The Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100) rose to a preliminary level of 222.0 in January 1985, up 0.1% from the revised December 1984 level of 221.7. Over the latest month, four of the eight component indexes increased, three decreased, and one was unchanged. The component indexes contributing most to the monthly increase in the RMPI were wood materials, up 1.7%, and nonmetallic minerals, up 2.5%. Partially offsetting the impact of these increases was a decline of 3.1% in the non-ferrous metals index.

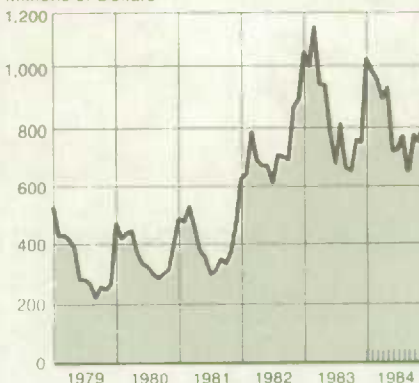
The year-over-year increase in the RMPI, as measured by comparing the index level of January 1985 to that of January 1984 was 3.6%, compared to the advance of 4.4% registered between December 1983 and December 1984. The deceleration in the year-over-year change resulted primarily from the combined upward impact exerted on the January 1984 index by higher prices for cattle and calves and for fresh vegetables.

Excluding the coal, crude oil and natural gas component, the RMPI edged up 0.3% between December 1984 and January 1985, but nonetheless was 0.6% below its level of January 1984.

Order the January 1985 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$13.85/\$38.50) or contact the Prices Division (613-990-9615).

Unemployment Insurance Commission Benefit Payments

Millions of Dollars



Source: Statistics Canada, Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act (73-001)

Industry Selling Price Index

Preliminary estimates show that the Industry Selling Price Index for manufacturing (1971=100) stood at 315.5 in January 1985, up 0.4% from the revised level of 314.3 for December 1984. With this increase, the year-over-year advance (from January 1984 to January 1985) declined to 3.3% from the 3.8% recorded in December 1984. The monthly change was primarily attributable to increases in the food and beverage industries (0.6%), the petroleum and coal products industry (1.0%), the wood industry (1.7%) and "other major groups" (0.5%). A decline in the paper and allied industries (-0.6%) had a moderating effect on the overall index.

In January 1985, the proportion of industry indexes that posted increases stood at 60.6%, up sharply from the average of 50.0% for the previous six months. By contrast, the percentage of indexes that registered declines (18.1%) was lower than the average for the preceding six months (28.7%). The proportion of indexes showing no change (21.3%) was the same as the average for the preceding six months.

Order the January issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$3.85/\$38.50) or contact the Prices Division (613-990-9615).

Family History Survey

Preliminary results from Statistics Canada's Family History Survey indicate that fewer Canadians experience divorce, remarriage and parenting of step-children and adopted children than might have been expected given recent high rates of divorce. The data show that only about 7% of ever-married Canadians between the ages of 18 and 64 have been married more than once, and less than 12% have ever been divorced.

Survey results dramatically demonstrate the different relationship between work and family life for men and women. About three times as many of the women surveyed reported one or more work interruptions (of one year or longer) during their lifetimes as did the men. About two-thirds of the women

Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance benefits paid to Canadians during the month of December 1984 totalled \$801.4 million, up 6.1% from a month earlier and 6.4% from December 1983. For the year 1984, unemployment insurance disbursements to claimants amounted to \$9.985.6 million; this is 1.8% less than was paid out during 1983.

The number of beneficiaries for the week ending December 15, 1984 stood at 1.25 million, increasing by 10.2% from the previous month and up 1.5% over December 1983. In 1984, the average number of beneficiaries was estimated at 1.19 million, 4.5% fewer than the average number recorded for 1983.

For the month of December, 327,000 claims for benefits were received, down 19.0% from the previous month and a 1.1% decline from December 1983. A total of 3.49 million claims have been received during 1984, an increase of 1.7% over the 3.43 million registered during 1983.

Order the Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act (73-001, \$6.65/\$26.60) or contact H. Stiebert or J.-P. Maynard (613-990-9900), *Labour Division*.

infomat

Weekly Bulletin

Published by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada

Senior Editor: Vicki Crompton (613-993-7644)

Editor: Lyne Bélanger-Paré (613-993-7644), R.H. Coats Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa K1A 0T6

Catalogue 11-002E Price: Canada, \$27.75 a year; other countries, \$33.30 a year. To subscribe, send money order or cheque payable to the Receiver General for Canada to Publication Sales and Services, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Published under the authority of the Minister of Supply and Services Canada. Statistics Canada should be credited when reproducing or quoting any part of this document.

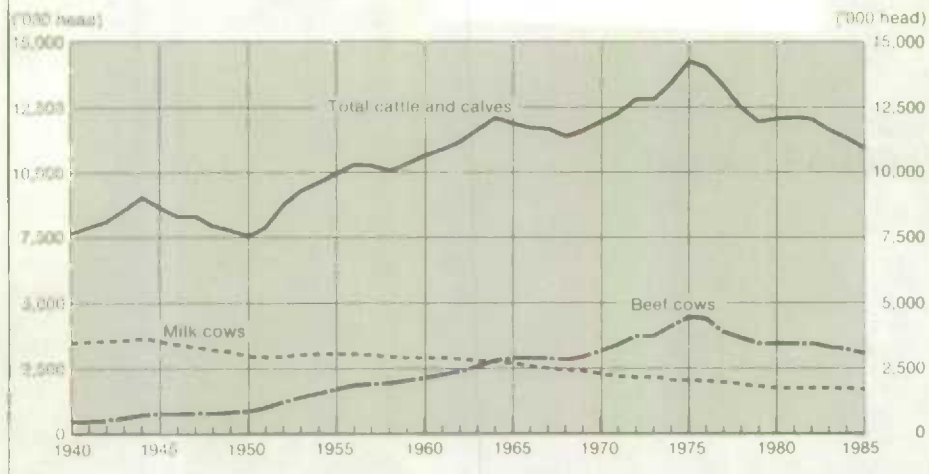
reported work interruptions due to marriage, childbearing and childcare, or moving to be with a spouse. Virtually none of the men reported work interruptions for these reasons.

Statistics Canada undertook the Family History Survey in February 1984. This Survey addressed questions about the occurrence and timing of different family events such as marriage, living together, childbirth, adoption, divorce, remarriage and labour force participation.

The full fruits of the Family History Survey will emerge from detailed cohort and life-table analyses. The first report from the Survey is expected in the summer of 1985.

Contact Kathy Marshall (613-990-9291), *Housing, Family and Social Division*.

Cattle: Numbers on Farms at January 1, Canada, 1940-1985



Source: Statistics Canada, Report on Livestock Surveys (23-008)

Livestock Report

The total number of cattle and calves in Canada at January 1, 1985 were estimated at 10,964,900 compared to 11,360,100 at January 1, 1984, down 3%. Beef cows were estimated at 3,059,800, the lowest level in 16 years, 5% lower than the year earlier total of 3,236,100. Numbers of dairy cows have declined slightly in recent years and are now estimated at 1,721,900, down 1% from a year ago (1,731,000).

The estimated total number of pigs in Canada at January 1, 1985 was 10,791,900, marginally higher than the January 1, 1984 total of 10,740,900. Sows for breeding and bred gilts were estimated at 1,104,500, a decrease of 1% from the year earlier figure of 1,114,400. Farrowings during the fourth quarter of 1984 were unchanged from the previous year. First and second quarter 1985 farrowings are expected to decrease by 1% and 2% respectively.

Sheep and lamb numbers in Canada at January 1, 1985 were an estimated 523,100, down 6% from the January 1, 1984 figure of 554,300. Sheep aged one year and over decreased by 5% while the number of lambs under one year of age dropped by 8%.

Order the January 1, 1985 issue of Report on Livestock Surveys (23-008, \$4.40/\$17.60), or contact Bernard E. Rosien (613-990-8714), Agriculture Statistics Division.

Enrolment In Universities

Preliminary data for the fall of 1984 indicate that full-time enrolment in Canadian universities increased by 3% over the previous year to reach an all-time high of 461,200 students. This marks the sixth consecutive year for which increases have been recorded; during this period a total gain of 25% has been registered.

Newfoundland recorded the largest enrolment increase (16.5%) over the 1983-84 period, followed by Quebec (5.5%) and Prince Edward Island and Alberta (3.0% respectively). The only provinces showing decreases in enrolment were British Columbia (-2.0%) and Manitoba (-1.0%).

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales rose at a moderate pace in December 1984, advancing 8.9% over the same period last year. Revised sales for November 1984 were up 12.5% from the November 1983 level.

In December 1984, all major trade groups except lumber and building materials (-6.9%) registered sales increases from a year earlier. The most notable gains were reported by wholesalers of tobacco, drugs and toilet preparations (+20.9%), other machinery and equipment (+20.9%), and metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment (+20.7%).

Wholesale inventories increased by 9.5% during the month compared to the corresponding period in 1983. Revised inventories for November 1984 were up 9.6% from the November 1983 level.

Annual 1984

Sales by wholesale merchants during 1984 increased by 12.1% from the 1983 total. All major trade groups except farm machinery and equipment (-5.7%) and lumber and building materials (-0.2%) registered sales increases over 1983. Exceptional gains were reported by the following major trade groups: motor vehicles and accessories (+21.7%), metals hardware, plumbing and heating equipment (+19.6%); tobacco, drugs and toilet preparations (+17.9%); and other machinery, equipment and supplies (+17.3%).

Order the December 1984 issue of Wholesale Trade (63-008, \$1.60/\$16), or contact Merchandising and Services (613-990-9679).

Part-time enrolment in Canadian universities during the 1984-85 period rose by approximately 1.0% to 272,600 students. Provinces registering the largest increases included Alberta (13%), Newfoundland (7.0%) and British Columbia (6.0%), while Nova Scotia and Ontario recorded the largest declines at -8.5% and -4.0% respectively.

Contact the Education, Culture and Tourism Division (613-990-9035).

Canada, the Provinces and the Territories: A Statistical Profile

Statistics Canada's unique new reference work, *Canada, the Provinces and the Territories: A Statistical Profile*, is designed for the many data users who need to make quick, accurate comparisons between the provinces, the territories and Canada as a whole. Drawing together a wide array of data and indicators, it provides a comprehensive, concise overview of today's most significant economic, social and demographic trends.

Selected highlights from this publication include:

- Prince Edward Island is Canada's most rural province, with only 36% of its population living in urban communities. However, Prince Edward Island is also Canada's most crowded province, with 21.6 people per sq. km.
- The Yukon has the most widely swinging inter-provincial migration patterns. In 1981-82, 103 out of every 1,000 people in the Yukon had migrated from another part of the country. The following year, 1982-83, 158 out of every 1,000 people left the Yukon for another province or territory.
- In Newfoundland, 52.1% of the population aged 15 and over were either employed or actively seeking work in 1983, as opposed to 71.6% in Alberta.
- Manufacturing accounts for 27% of Ontario's Gross Domestic Product. However, it accounts for only 1% of the combined GDP in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.
- Albertans spend fewer hours watching television (22.5 hours each week) than other Canadians. The most serious television fans are found in Nova Scotia, but Nova Scotians watch TV only three hours more than Albertans, about 25.8 hours each week.

Order Canada, the Provinces and the Territories: A Statistical Profile (17-X-501, \$25), or contact Adele Furrie (613-990-9472), Assistant Program Manager, Small Area Data Program.

International Travel

Preliminary estimates for the fourth quarter show that Canada registered a deficit of \$586 million in international travel, compared with a deficit of \$646 million in 1983. Receipts from the United States totalled \$472 million while those from all other countries reached \$198 million. Payments by Canadians to the United States amounted to \$733 million while payments to all other countries reached \$523 million.

In 1984, Canada earned an estimated \$4,338 million from international travel, up 12.9% from the previous year. During the same period, Canadians travelling abroad increased by 8.5% to \$6,557 million, leaving the international travel account with a deficit of \$2,219 million compared to the 1983 deficit of \$2,204 million.

Order the October-December issue of Travel Between Canada and Other Countries (66-001, \$8.35/\$33.40), or contact Paul L. Paradis (613-990-8932), International Travel Section.



1010718441

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FEBRUARY 22 — 28

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE STATISTICS			
Cereals and oilseeds review, December 1984	22-007	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Farm cash receipts, January-December 1984	21-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Index numbers of farm prices of agricultural products, December 1984	62-003	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
The dairy review, December 1984	23-001	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
BUSINESS FINANCE			
Cheques cashed, December 1984	61-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
EXTERNAL TRADE			
Exports by commodities, December 1984	65-004	\$5.55/\$55.50	\$6.65/\$66.50
Summary of external trade, December 1984	65-001	\$3.30/\$33	\$3.95/\$39.50
HEALTH			
Causes of death, 1983	84-203	\$16.70	\$20
Marriages and divorces, 1983	84-205	\$6.65	\$7.95
INTERNATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS			
Financial flow accounts, Third quarter 1984	13-002	\$8.35/\$33.40	\$10/\$40.05
International travel — Advance information, 1984	66-002	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
LABOUR			
Employment, earnings and hours, November 1984	72-002	\$5.55/\$55.50	\$6.65/\$66.50
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES			
Asphalt roofing, December 1984	45-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Construction type plywood, December 1984	35-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Crude petroleum and natural gas production, October 1984	26-006	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Electric power statistics, November 1984	57-001	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Factory sales of electric storage batteries, December 1984	43-005	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins, December 1984	46-002	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Monthly production of soft drinks, January 1985	32-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Oil pipe line transport, November 1984	55-001	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Production of selected biscuits, Quarter ended December 1984	32-026	\$2.75/\$11	\$3.30/\$13.20
Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, December 1984	25-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Refined petroleum products, November 1984	45-004	\$3.85/\$38.50	\$4.60/\$46
Steel wire and specified wire products, December 1984	41-006	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Service Bulletins:			
Fruit and vegetable preservation, Vol. 13, 1984, No. 13, Pack of processed pumpkin and squash; No. 17, Pack of processed broccoli; No. 18, Pack of processed Brussels sprouts; No. 20, Pack of processed cauliflower	32-023	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
PRICES			
Construction price statistics, December 1984	62-007	\$3.30/\$33	\$3.95/\$39.50
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS			
Railway operating statistics, August 1984	52-003	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Urban transit, December 1984	53-003	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19

These publications can be purchased by writing to Publication Sales and Services, Room 1710, Main Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6. Please enclose cheque or money order payable to the Receiver General for Canada and provide full information on publications required (number, title, issue).

Publications can also be ordered through Statistics Canada's offices in St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Sturgeon Falls, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver, or from bookstore agents or other booksellers.