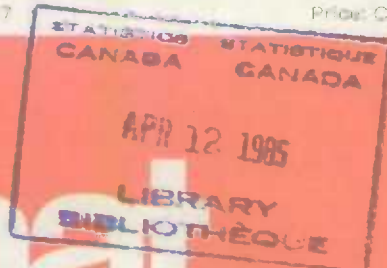




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Weekly Bulletin

April 12, 1985

## External Trade

On a seasonally adjusted balance of payments basis, preliminary estimates indicate that the value of Canada's total exports was virtually unchanged at a level of \$9.6 billion in February following an increase of 2.4% or \$220 million in January and two consecutive monthly declines of 1.4% in December and 3.9% in November. Imports fell 2.8% or \$235 million after three consecutive monthly increases averaging 3.4%. The net effect of these movements was an increase of \$216 million in the merchandise trade surplus to \$1.6 billion.

## Commodity Analysis

Exports were virtually flat at the total level, masking the large countervailing influences at the commodity level. Crude materials registered an increase of \$355 million, largely attributable to gains in crude oil, iron ores and coal. This increase was counterbalanced by declines in End Products of \$210 million (largely automobile products). Fabricated Materials of \$95 million (primarily aluminum) and Food, \$75 million (wheat and barley).

Significant declines in four commodity groupings accounted for the overall drop of \$235 million in total imports. The largest decline of \$160 million was registered in Fabricated Materials, of which precious metals and petroleum and coal products

(continued page 2, col. 1)

## The Labour Force

Employment rose by an estimated 28,000 to 11,165,000, while the unemployment rate rose 0.2% to 11.2%. The rise in employment was primarily due to an increase in the estimated number of people entering or re-entering the labour force, which rose by an estimated 50,000 to 12,570,000 this month. The seasonally adjusted participation rate increased 0.2% to 65.1% in March 1985; the employment/population ratio rose 0.1% to 57.8%.

## Employment

The seasonally adjusted level of employment for the week ending March 16, 1985 was an estimated 11,165,000, an increase of 28,000 over the level of the previous month. Employment rose by 20,000 to 4,729,000 for females and was virtually unchanged for males at 6,436,000.

The unadjusted estimate of employment for March 1985 was 10,864,000, an

(continued page 2, col. 2)

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Jan.	410.14	407.99	2.5
Labour Income (\$ million)	Jan.*	19,569.8	19,716.7	6.5
Persons with Jobs (million)	Mar.*	10.86	10.77	2.5
Unemployed	Mar.*	1,546,000	1,455,000	0.3

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Dec.	3,142.7	3,950.5	-2.5
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Jan.*	33,474.4	33,094.7	6.2

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Jan.*	18,727.7	17,540.5	5.9
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Jan.*	22,161.8	21,797.2	7.1

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Feb.	125.4	124.6	3.7
New House Price Index (1981=100)	Feb.*	95.0	95.0	-0.1
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Feb.*	222.2	221.7	3.0
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Feb.*	157.3	156.7	-1.9
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Feb.*	316.0	315.6	3.1

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Jan.*	765.6	765.6	13.0
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb.*	6,262	13,924	-9.3

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Dec.	5,008	57,428	28.2
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Dec.	40.9	424.6	7.4
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Dec.	9,772	89,865	7.9
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Dec.	7.7	87.6	1.5

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Feb.*	9,073	18,171	9.1
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Feb.*	7,637	15,321	11.2

### PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Dec.	16.9	240.0	15.9
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Feb.	1,150	2,298	-5.6

### SALES

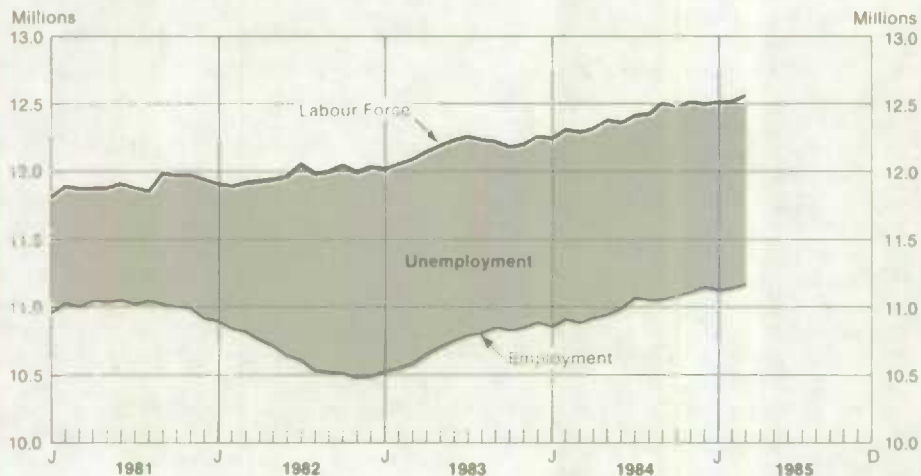
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	692.7	692.7	6.7
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Jan.*	18,363.1	18,363.1	7.3
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.*	1,214.7	2,355.4	15.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	8,613.1	8,613.1	12.6

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

\* - new this week.

## The Labour Force

(Seasonally Adjusted)



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

Canada

### ... External Trade

were the largest contributors. End Products fell by \$82 million, reflecting the large drop in automobile products. Crude materials declined \$35 million, primarily due to a drop in crude petroleum.

### Trading Partner Analysis

Following the tremendous surge of exports to the United States in August 1984 related to labour strife in the automotive industry, exports declined at a monthly rate of \$150 million over the next four months. Exports to the United States turned around in January 1985, increasing by \$80 million and by a further \$115 million in February to attain a healthy level of \$7.4 billion. The positive effect of a rise in exports to the U.S. in February was counteracted by declines of \$80 million to Other EEC countries and \$50 million to Other Countries.

Imports from the United States declined moderately, -\$110 million in February to a level of \$5.9 billion following two months of robust increases of \$260 million in January and nearly \$500 million in December. Excluding the irregular peak of \$6.3 billion attained in August 1984, the level of imports from the United States remained at record levels in the current period. Imports from the rest of the world also posted declines in February; the largest drop was registered in Other Countries.

*Order the February 1985 issue of Summary of Canadian International Trade (65-001, \$15.00/\$150.00), or contact G. Blaney (613-990-9647) or Judith Frederick (613-990-9784), International Trade Division.*

### Building Permits

In January, the seasonally adjusted value of building permits issued by municipalities decreased 5.2% to \$1,292.7 million from \$1,364.1 million in December. This situation was the result of a drop in both the residential and non-residential sectors.

The seasonally adjusted value of residential construction authorized in January slipped 8.1% to a level of \$658.3 million from \$716.0 million in December. This was due to a fall in the multiple dwelling sector in January following good performances in November and December. On a seasonally adjusted basis, 10,117 units were approved in January (6,482 single-detached and 3,635 multiple dwellings) a decline of 14.4% compared to 11,825 units (6,448 single-detached and 5,377 multiple dwellings) in December. Translated into annual terms, these approvals represent totals of 121,400 units in January and 141,900 units in December.

The January seasonally adjusted value of non-residential building permits declined 2.1% to \$634.4 million from \$648.1 million in December. The industrial sector rose 16.1% while declines were reported in the commercial (-6.9%) and public (-9.4%) sectors.

*Order the January issue of Building Permits (64-001, \$20/\$200), or contact G. Lemay (613-990-9689), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.*

### ... The Labour Force

increase of 269,000 (+2.5%) over the level of the previous year. Not adjusted for seasonal variation, the employment/population ratio rose 0.8% over March 1984 to 56.3%, while the participation rate was 64.3%, up 0.7% from a year earlier.

### Unemployment

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rose by 22,000 in March to a level of 1,405,000. Estimated unemployment increased by 16,000 to 811,000 for men and by 6,000 to 594,000 for women. Among those aged 15 to 24, the number of males unemployed rose by an estimated 16,000, while a decline of 7,000 was noted for women in this age group. The number of jobless increased by 13,000 for those aged 25 and over; the increase was confined to women.

The unadjusted level of unemployment for the month was 1,546,000, a marginal increase of 5,000 (+0.3%) over the level of a year ago. Not adjusted for seasonal variation, the unemployment rate was 12.5%, down 0.2% from March 1984.

*Order the March 1985 issue of The Labour Force (71-001, \$3.85/\$38.50), or contact Ken Bennett (613-990-9448), Labour Force Survey.*

### Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance benefits paid to claimants during January 1985 totalled \$1.17 billion, 46.4% more than a month earlier and 14.4% from January 1984.

The number of beneficiaries for the week ending January 19, 1985 stood at 1.39 million, 10.9% more than in December 1984 and 0.8% more than in January 1984.

A major factor in the increases between December 1984 and January 1985 are the seasonal variations which occur every year.

During January 1985, a total of 393,000 claims for unemployment insurance benefits were received, 20.2% more than the previous month and 1.2% more than a year ago.

*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.*

### Manufacturing Industries

Preliminary estimates show the seasonally adjusted value of shipments increased 2.3% to \$19,837.6 million in January over the revised estimate of \$19,391.4 million in December.

Seasonally adjusted inventories owned by manufacturers at the end of January were \$33,330.7 million, down 0.9% from the previous month's revised value of \$33,648.0 million. The seasonally adjusted ratio of total inventory owned to shipments at the end of January was 1.68:1, down from 1.74:1 in December.

The value of new orders received in January, seasonally adjusted, increased 0.8% to \$19,707.4 million from the revised December estimate of \$19,556.2 million. The unfilled orders backlog at the end of January was

### New Motor Vehicle Sales

Sales of all new motor vehicles registered a gain of 4.9% over the previous year in February 1985, rising to 96,909 units. Compared to February 1984, sales of North American-manufactured passenger cars and commercial vehicles increased by 0.1% to 51,963 and 9.3% to 21,243 units respectively. Sales of passenger cars built overseas rose by 14.0% to 20,694 units; sales of overseas-built commercial vehicles increased by 5.2% to 3,009 units. Between February 1984 and February 1985, sales of passenger cars imported from Japan decreased by 4.4% to 12,801, while sales of passenger cars imported from other countries increased by 65.6% to 7,893 units.

The share of the Canadian passenger car market held by North American manufacturers in February 1985 was 71.5%, a significant decrease from the 74.1% recorded in February 1984. Japanese manufacturers also recorded a decreased market share at 17.6%, compared to 19.1% a year earlier. Manufacturers from other countries held 10.9% of the passenger car market, a substantial increase from the 6.8% held in February 1984.

The total dollar value of all new motor vehicles sold in February 1985 increased by 8.4% from a year earlier to \$1,214.7 million. Sales of North American passenger cars reached \$600.0 million, up 2.5% over the corresponding month in 1984. The total sales of commercial vehicles built in North America amounted to \$336.4 million, up 17.8%. Sales of overseas passenger cars and commercial vehicles rose by 10.7% and 17.4% to reach \$244.9 million and \$33.4 million respectively.

Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, preliminary estimates of unit sales of passenger cars built in North America decreased 2.2% in February 1985 (65,373 units) from the January 1985 level. Seasonally adjusted sales of passenger cars built overseas increased 0.9% (23,562 units) from the previous month, while total sales of commercial vehicles, both domestic and overseas, were lower by 4.0% (28,646 units).

*Order the February 1985 issue of New Motor Vehicle Sales (63-007, \$8/\$80), or contact Michael Kwilecki (613-990-9665), Industry Division.*

\$22,314.0 million, down 0.6% from the revised December estimate of \$22,444.1 million.

Not adjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in January 1985 were estimated at \$18,363.1 million, 3.5% higher than the revised December 1984 value of \$17,746.3 million and 7.3% higher than the January 1984 value of \$17,121.0 million.

*Order the January 1985 issue of Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries (31-001, \$15/\$150), or contact J. Lepage (613-990-9832), Shipments, Inventories and Orders Section, Industry Division.*



## Therapeutic Abortions

The 10 provinces and two territories reported 61,800 therapeutic abortions for 1983. This represents a decrease of 4,519 or 6.8% from the 66,319 therapeutic abortions reported for 1982. The therapeutic abortion rate (number of therapeutic abortions per 100 live births) declined to 16.5 for 1983 from 17.8 for 1982 — a decrease of 7.3%.

A total of 61,326 women who obtained therapeutic abortions in Canada during 1983 reported selected demographic and medical characteristics: 66.1% were single; 58.2% were under the age of 25; and about 61% had had no deliveries prior to the present therapeutic abortion. The proportion of under-13-weeks pregnancy termination to total therapeutic abortions increased to 87.9% for 1983 from 81.3% for 1975. The number of therapeutic abortions for which complications were reported as a per cent of the total therapeutic abortions declined by 34%, to 2.1 cases in 1983 compared with 3.2 cases in 1975.

*Order Therapeutic Abortions, Canada (82-546, \$7), or contact S. Wadhwa, Program Manager, Therapeutic Abortions or C. Nair, Chief, Institutional Care Statistics, Health Division (613-990-8386 or 8387).*

## International Travel

### Total Travellers

During February 1985, preliminary statistics show that an estimated 1.4 million United States residents entered Canada, down 6.2% from February 1984. Visitors from other countries decreased by 0.8% to 54,500. Canadian residents re-entering the country following visits to the United States totalled 2.3 million, down 5.0% from February 1984. Canadians returning from visits to all other countries increased by 12.2% to 187,400.

For the first two months of 1985, total international travel flows were as follows: 2.8 million United States residents entered Canada, down 3.1% from 1984; visitors from other countries decreased by 0.5% to 111,200. Canadians returning from the United States decreased by 3.1% to 4.8 million, while residents returning from other countries numbered 420,100, up 12.9% from 1984.

### Estimation of Tourists

Preliminary data show that long-term tourist entries from the United States decreased by 6.0% to 360,700 in February 1985. Residents of other countries numbered 51,100, down 0.4% from last year. Canadian tourist re-entries from the United States numbered 603,700 in February, down 7.7%, while residents returning from countries other than the United States increased by 12.2% to 187,400.

For the first two months of 1985, tourists from the United States numbered 669,400, down 0.9% from 1984. The number of tourists from other countries was virtually unchanged during the January-February period at 104,300. Canadian tourist re-entries from the United States numbered 1.3 million in the first two months of 1985,

## Raw Materials Price Index

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) (1971=100) reached a preliminary level of 222.2 in February 1985, up 0.2% from a revised January level of 221.7. When compared to its level 12 months earlier, the index has increased 3.0%. The RMPI, excluding coal, crude oil and natural gas, increased 0.4% in February, but was 1.9% lower than in February 1984. Of the eight components within the RMPI, six showed monthly increases, while two showed declines. The largest impact on the total RMPI came from the vegetable products component, which jumped 2.9% in the month. The index movements for the other components were small, less than one per cent. Price increases occurred for coal, crude oil and natural gas, up 0.1%, and wood, up 0.5%, while animal and animal products, down 0.4%, and non-ferrous metals, also down 0.4%, had a dampening effect on the total index.

*Order the February 1985 issue of Industry Price Indexes (62-011, \$3.85/\$38.50), or contact the Prices Division (613-990-9615).*

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## Labour Income

Labour income for the month of January 1985 was estimated at \$19,569.8 million, an increase of \$1,197.8 million or 6.5% from January 1984. Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries decreased by \$107.5 million between December 1984 and January 1985 to \$18,145.7 million.

*Order the January-March issue of Estimates of Labour Income (72-005, \$5.55/\$22.20), or contact Mrs. Gauthier (613-990-9900), Labour Division.*

down 4.8% from a year earlier, while residents returning from countries other than the United States increased by 12.9% to 420,100.

*Order the February 1985 issue of International Travel — Advance Information (66-002, \$1.60/\$16), or contact Paul L. Paradis (613-990-8932), International and Financial Economics Division.*

## Industry Selling Price Index

Preliminary estimates show that the Industry Selling Price Index for manufacturing stood at 316.0 in February 1985, up 0.1% from the revised level of 315.6 for January. With this increase, the year-over-year advance, from February 1984 to February 1985, declined to 3.1%, continuing the downward trend that began in December 1984. The monthly change was primarily attributable to modest increases in most major groups, particularly the food and beverage industry (0.2%), the non-metallic mineral products industry (0.8%) and "other major groups" (0.3%). A decline in the paper and allied industries (-0.3%) had a moderating effect on the overall index.

In February 1985, the proportion of industry indexes that posted increases stood at 59.8%, substantially above the average of 50.3% for the previous six months. By contrast, the percentage of indexes that registered declines (17.3%) was much lower than the average for the preceding six months (28.4%). The proportion of indexes showing no change (22.8%) was marginally higher than the average for the preceding six months (21.4%).

*Order the February 1985 issue of Industry Price Indexes (62-011, \$3.85/\$38.50), or contact the Prices Division (613-990-9615).*

## Farm Wages

At February 15, 1985, the average hourly wage, without board, lodging or house provided, was estimated to be \$5.23, up 3.4% compared to \$5.06 at February 15, 1984.

The average wages of farm help per hour on February 15, 1985, without board, were:

- Maritimes (P.E.I., N.S., N.B.), \$4.68
- Quebec, \$4.60
- Ontario, \$4.99
- Manitoba, \$5.66
- Saskatchewan, \$6.07
- Alberta, \$5.63
- British Columbia, \$6.06
- Canada, \$5.23.

Average daily wages, without board, were estimated at \$43.15, and monthly wages, without board, at \$963.

*Order Farm Wages in Canada (21-002, \$7/\$28), or contact Elizabeth Leckie (613-990-8706), Agriculture/Natural Resources Division.*

## Help-wanted Index

The seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index (1981=100) for Canada increased from 64 to 70 between February and March 1985. For the first quarter of 1985, the average of the index rose to 66, up from 61 recorded for the fourth quarter of 1984.

The index advanced in all regions in March: to 185 from 182 in the Atlantic provinces, to 68 from 64 in Quebec, to 79 from 78 in Ontario, to 39 from 38 in the Prairie provinces, and to 31 from 24 in British Columbia.

The short term trend which smooths irregular monthly fluctuations increased slightly between February and March.

*Contact Horst Stiebert or J.P. Maynard (613-990-9900), Labour Division.*



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