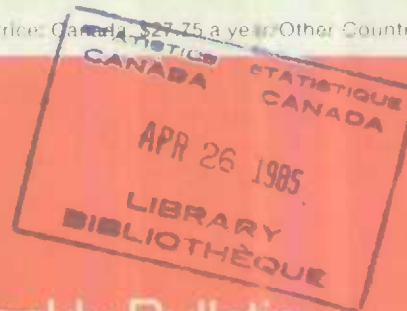


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Weekly Bulletin



April 26, 1985

Gross Domestic Product and Industrial Production

Gross Domestic Product in constant 1971 prices rose 0.3% in January 1985. This follows virtually no change in December 1984 and a 0.9% increase in November of last year. The January level is now about 0.7% above the average for the fourth quarter of 1984. Following three months of expansion, industrial output declined by 0.8% in January.

Service-producing industries increased their output in January while that of goods-producing industries was unchanged from December. Much of the strength came from retail trade, signalling a continuation in the strength in consumer demand which had its strongest increase in six quarters in the fourth quarter of 1984. Other areas of significant output improvement were insurance and real estate agencies, buoyed by increased housing sales, security brokers and dealers, electric utilities and telephone systems. Increased exports were a factor in the increase in electric utilities. The forestry industry reported the first substantial output gain since July of last year on the strength of increased saw-log production.

(continued page 2, col. 1)

Building Construction Activity

The leading indicator of construction activity in Canada (1971=100) slipped to 90.2 in December, a decrease of 1.0% from the preceding month. For a second consecutive month, the downward movement of the leading indicator resulted from the weakening of intentions recorded in the residential and non-residential sectors.

The filtered index of residential construction was almost unchanged in December, decreasing 0.2% from the previous month to 86.8. The retreat of intentions occurred in both the single and multi-family sectors.

The filtered index of non-residential construction dropped 1.8% to 93.9 in December. Declines were registered in the industrial (-4.1%) and commercial (-0.9%) components, while the governmental sector increased slightly (+0.8%).

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

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

		Jan.	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)	Feb.*	2,970.2	3,014.1	-5.6
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb.*	33,647.5	33,625.4	5.7

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb.*	18,247.1	18,650.0	0.6
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb.*	22,156.0	22,190.3	4.5

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Mar.	125.7	125.4	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

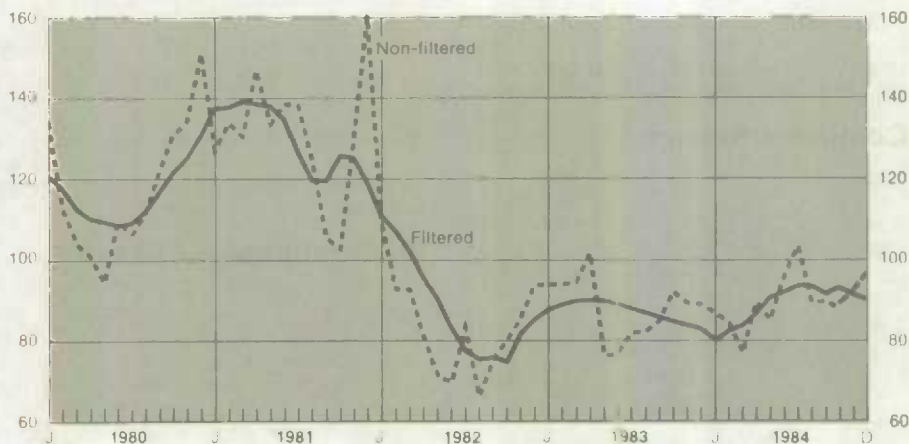
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb.*	647.1	1,339.7	2.4
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.*	18,281.4	36,538.4	5.2
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	1,214.7	2,355.4	15.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	8,291.0	16,815.9	8.5

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* - new this week.

Indexes of Construction Activity in Canada

1971=100



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

...Gross Domestic Product and Industrial Production

In contrast to retail trade, wholesale trade dropped sharply in January. Wholesalers of electrical, industrial and farm machinery and equipment, motor vehicle parts and food products all reported significant declines.

Although overall export volumes increased, weakness in export demand affected such manufacturing industries as sawmills, pulp and paper and iron and steel mills. Production of iron ore mines and other metal mining which also export a significant share of their output was down in January.

Residential construction fell in January for the fourth consecutive month. However, housing starts improved significantly in January which should lead to increases in residential construction activity in the next several months.

Order the January 1985 issue of Gross Domestic Product by Industry (61-005, \$3.85/\$38.50), or contact Ron Kennedy (613-990-9145), Industry Measures and Analysis Division.

Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas

During January 1985, production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons amounted to 7 499.7 thousand cubic metres, up 4.2% from the previous year. Exports were up 9.6% to 1 683.3 thousand cubic metres and imports fell 34.3%, to 1 163.2 thousand cubic metres. Canadian refinery receipts of crude oil totalled 6 811.3 thousand cubic metres, down 10.2% from January 1984.

The estimated net withdrawals of natural gas during the month amounted to 9 995.0 million cubic metres, up 4.7% from the same period in 1984. Marketable production of natural gas after treatment at processing plants reached 8 086.5 million cubic metres, up 5.7%, while net withdrawals of natural gas liquids (propane, butanes and ethane) were up 3.3% from the previous year to an estimated 1 424.7 thousand cubic metres. Exports of natural gas amounted to 2 867.5 million cubic metres, up 13.3%; sales in Canada amounted to 6 340.2 million cubic metres, an increase of 1.8% from a year earlier.

Order the January 1985 issue of Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production (26-006, \$8/\$80), or contact Gérard O'Connor (613-990-9823), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Computer Service

In 1983, there were 1,836 companies in Canada primarily engaged in providing processing, software and systems and other computer-related services, with total operating revenue reported at \$1,441.6 million.

A further 82 companies were primarily engaged in the sales, lease and rental of hardware with reported total operating revenue of \$1,091.5 million.

Order the 1983 edition of Computer Service Industry (63-222, \$20) or contact E. Yablonski (613-990-9662), Services Division.

Gross Domestic Product

(Seasonally Adjusted)

1971 dollars
(\$ billions)



Source: Statistics Canada, Gross Domestic Product by Industry (61-005)

Wholesale Trade

Sales

Wholesale merchants' sales rose at a moderate pace in February 1985, advancing 4.7% over the same period last year. Revised sales for January 1985 were up 10.4% from the January 1984 level.

In February 1985, all major trade groups registered sales increases from a year earlier, except lumber and building materials (-16.8%) and motor vehicles and accessories (-1.9%). The most notable gains were reported by wholesalers of metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment (+22.7%); apparel, dry goods, furniture and general merchandise (+13.1%); other machinery, equipment and supplies (+12.6%); and tobacco, drugs and toilet preparations (+12.2%). All regions posted sales increases from a year earlier, ranging from 20.6% in the Atlantic provinces to 1.9% in Quebec.

Cumulative sales by wholesale merchants for the first two months of 1985 were up 6.4% over the January-February 1984 period.

Inventories

Wholesale inventories in February 1985 increased by 6.4% from the corresponding period in 1984. Revised inventories for January 1985 were up 6.7% from the January 1984 level.

The ratio of inventories to sales at the end of February 1985 was 1.86:1, up slightly from 1.83:1 a year earlier.

Order the February 1985 issue of Wholesale Trade (63-008, \$5/\$50) or contact the Wholesale Trade Section (613-990-9679), Industry Division.

International Air Charter

During the second quarter of 1984, the number of international charter passengers totalled 699,514, down 5.1% from the second quarter of 1983.

The traffic to Europe and the South (Bermuda; the Bahamas; the Caribbean Islands except Puerto Rico; Mexico and Central and South America) for the second quarter of 1984 decreased by 10.1% and 7.5%

Refined Petroleum Products and Natural Gas

Preliminary figures show that in February 1985, sales of refined petroleum products in Canada decreased by 3.3% from a year earlier, while sales of natural gas increased by 14.8%. Cumulative figures for the first two months of 1985 indicate sales of petroleum products fell 0.7% from the 1984 level; sales of natural gas were up by 7.1%.

Refined Petroleum Products

During February 1985, sales of petroleum products by Canadian refiners and major distributors amounted to 6 115 400 cubic metres, down 3.3% from the level recorded in February 1984. Production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners amounted to 6 445 752 cubic metres, down 13.0% from February 1984.

For the first two months of 1985, sales of refined petroleum products amounted to 12 951 025 cubic metres, down 0.7% from the level recorded during the same period in 1984. Year-to-date production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners amounted to 13 374 252 cubic metres, down 13.0% from the same period in 1984.

Natural Gas

Sales of natural gas by main distributors amounted to 5 796 417 000 cubic metres in February 1985, up 14.8% from the level recorded during February 1984. For the first two months of 1985, sales of natural gas amounted to 12 081 220 000 cubic metres, up 7.1% from the level recorded during the same period of 1984.

Order the February 1985 issues of Refined Petroleum Products (45-004, \$15/\$150) and Gas Utilities (55-002, \$10/\$100), or contact Gérard O'Connor or Gary Smalldridge (613-990-9823), Industry Division.

Note to Subscribers of Statistics Canada Publications

Effective immediately, the prices of Statistics Canada publications are being increased. These increases are in line with the principle that users should bear a more equitable share of the production costs involved in publishing statistical information. Price increases will be phased in for all products and services of Statistics Canada.

Statistics Canada will honour current subscriptions, but all new subscriptions and renewals will be based on the revised price structure.

The new price structure is designed to enable Statistics Canada to continue providing a high quality information service to Canadians.

respectively compared to the same period a year earlier. Traffic to the United States increased slightly by 0.2%.

Contact Mrs. A. Macdonald (819-997-6173), Transportation Division.

Legal Aid

The twelve legal aid plans in Canada spent \$177.5 million to provide legal services in 1983-84. This represents an increase of 4% over the previous year's expenditure on an inflation-adjusted basis. The national per capita expenditure in 1983-84 was \$7.11. The Atlantic provinces continue to show the lowest per capita expenditure among the plans; the highest respective expenditure was observed in the North. Among the provinces, per capita expenditures are highest in Quebec.

In 1983-84, Canada's legal aid plans received \$178.6 million from revenue sources. As in earlier years, government contributions comprised the largest proportion of total revenue (91%), followed by interest from lawyers' trust accounts (5%), client contributions and cost recoveries (3%) and other sources (1%).

A total of 457,660 full service legal aid applications were approved in Canada during 1983-84. This represents a slight decline (-3%) from the 1982-83 total of 469,473. Over one-half of total approved applications dealt with civil matters. Among the plans, civil matters generally comprised under 40% of total caseload; major exceptions to the rule were Quebec (64%), New Brunswick (61%) and Ontario (55%). The highest proportion of criminal applications were approved in the Northwest Territories (90%).

Contact Dianne Hendrick (613-990-9030), Legal Aid Program, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Canada, the Provinces and the Territories: a Statistical Profile

The publication, *Canada, the Provinces and the Territories: A Statistical Profile* is a valuable tool for policy analysts, consultants, the media, teachers and other data users who need to make quick comparisons between the provinces, the territories and Canada as a whole.

The statistics cover all of today's most important topics, providing up-to-date profiles of: the population and its characteristics; the provincial economies; industrial growth and structure; labour, earnings and social security; and income, expenditure and prices. A wide range of data on the social environment - health, education and justice - and on target groups - women, youth, the elderly and native peoples - are also included.

To allow meaningful comparisons, absolute figures are presented alongside standardized formats such as ratios, average annual growth rates and incidence per 1,000 population. And, to aid further analysis, *Canada, the Provinces and the Territories* provides lists of data sources and contact divisions within Statistics Canada.

This Profile is a product of Statistics Canada's Small Area Data Program (SADP). Designed as a comprehensive problem-solver for the many users of small area statistics, the SADP is emphasizing the organization of social and economic data on a

Department Store Sales and Stocks

Unadjusted Sales

Unadjusted sales of department stores in Canada totalled \$647.1 million in February 1985, down 1.9% from the February 1984 level. Sales were lower in 25 of the 40 departments, with the largest decreases reported in gasoline, oil, auto accessories, repairs and supplies (-29.5%), plumbing, heating and building materials (-25.3%) and photographic equipment and supplies (-18.6%). The most notable increases were recorded in furs (+38.0%), sporting goods and luggage (+12.4%) and linens and domestics (+11.0%). With the exceptions of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia which reported sales increases of 4.6% and 3.4% respectively in February 1985, the remaining provinces reported lower sales when compared with those for February 1984. Decreases ranged from 0.1% in Manitoba to 4.0% in both Saskatchewan and Alberta. Of the 10 metropolitan areas surveyed, only Halifax-Dartmouth (+7.7%) and Toronto (+1.5%) reported higher sales. The eight remaining areas had lower sales with decreases ranging from 0.1% for Winnipeg to 6.2% in Edmonton.

Sales by major department stores in February 1985 reached \$409.1 million, down 4.1% from the corresponding month a year earlier, while Junior department stores had sales of \$237.9 million, up 2.2% over the same period.

In February 1985, total department store sales constituted 7.8% of all retail sales in Canada, a notable decrease from the 8.4% share held in February 1984.

Seasonally Adjusted Sales

Adjusted for seasonal variations and the number of trading days, total department store sales in February 1985 increased 0.1% to \$954.4 million from the revised January 1985 level of \$953.9 million. Among the 21 departments recording higher sales, the largest gains were reported in floor coverings (+9.6%), piece goods (+9.1%) and T.V., radio and music (+5.8%). The most notable decreases were recorded in hardware, paints, wallpaper, etc. (-10.0%), plumbing, heating and building materials (-9.4%) and repairs and services (-8.9%).

Stocks

The unadjusted selling value of inventories held by department stores in February 1985 was \$2,970.2 million, down 5.6% from the same month a year earlier. Seasonally adjusted, department store stocks totalled \$3,349.1 million in February 1985, down 0.2% from the previous month's revised value of \$3,357.2 million.

Order the February 1985 issue of Department Store Sales and Stocks (63-002, \$13/\$130), or contact Michael Kwilecki, (613-990-9665), Industry Division.

geographic basis. Although this publication covers the provinces and territories, rather than subprovincial areas, its presentation is in keeping with this focus.

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

Manufacturing Industries

Preliminary estimates show that the seasonally adjusted value of shipments in all Canadian manufacturing industries decreased 0.9% to \$19,550.7 million in February from the revised estimate of \$19,724.1 million in January.

Seasonally adjusted inventories owned by manufacturers at the end of February were \$33,279.4 million, down 0.6% from the previous month's revised value of \$33,480.0 million. The ratio of seasonally adjusted total inventory owned to seasonally adjusted shipments at the end of February remained at 1.70:1.

The value of new orders received in February, seasonally adjusted, decreased 2.0% to \$19,231.6 million from the revised January estimate of \$19,623.3 million. The seasonally adjusted unfilled orders backlog at the end of February was \$2,024.2 million, down 1.4% from the previous month's revised estimate of \$2,343.3 million.

Not adjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in February 1985 were estimated at \$18,281.5 million, 0.1% higher than the revised January value of \$18,256.9 million. Cumulative shipments for the first two months of 1985, at an estimated \$36,538.4 million, were up 5.2% from the \$34,748.0 million estimated for the same period in 1984.

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

Elementary and Secondary School Enrolment

The 1983-84 issue of *Elementary-Secondary School Enrolment* includes information on enrolment by age, grade and sex in public, private and federal schools, as well as an historical series. Also included is an analysis of enrolment changes over the past 12 years.

Order Elementary-Secondary School Enrolment (81-210, Canada: \$20; other countries: \$21).

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED APRIL 19 — 25

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE STATISTICS			
Farm cash receipts, January-February 1985	21-001	\$7/\$70	\$8/\$80
Index numbers of farm prices of agricultural products, February 1985	62-003	\$6/\$60	\$7/\$70
The dairy review, February 1985	23-001	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
CONSTRUCTION			
Housing starts and completions, January 1985	64-002	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
INTERNATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS			
International travel — Advance information, February 1985	66-002	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Quarterly estimates of the Canadian balance of international payments, Fourth Quarter 1984	67-001	\$25/\$100	\$26/\$104
Security transactions with non-residents, December 1984	67-002	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
JUSTICE STATISTICS			
Juristat, Vol. 5, No. 1, Legal aid in Canada: Resource and caseload statistics, 1983-84	85-002	free	free
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES			
Asphalt roofing, February 1985	45-001	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Cement, February 1985	44-001	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Construction type plywood, February 1985	35-001	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Crude petroleum and natural gas production, December 1984	26-006	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
Gas utilities, December 1984	55-002	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
Oil pipe line transport, January 1985	55-001	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
Production, shipments and stocks on hand of sawmills in British Columbia, January 1985	35-003	\$6/\$60	\$7/\$70
Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, February 1985	25-001	\$7/\$70	\$8/\$80
Rigid insulating board, February 1985	36-002	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Steel wire and specified wire products, February 1985	41-006	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Service bulletin:			
Fruit and vegetable preservation, Vol. 13, No. 15, Pack of processed carrots, 1984	32-023	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES			
Department store sales and stocks, January 1985	63-002	\$13/\$130	\$14/\$140
Restaurant, caterer and tavern statistics, January 1985	63-011	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
Retail trade, January 1985	63-005	\$14/\$140	\$15/\$150
Wholesale trade, January 1985	63-008	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
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Industry price indexes, February 1985	62-011	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS			
Provincial and territorial government employment, July-September 1984	72-007	\$15/\$60	\$16/\$64
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS			
For-hire trucking survey, 1982	53-224	\$16.70	\$20
Service bulletin:			
Road transport, Vol. 14, No. 3, Trucking activity survey, 1983	53-006	\$7.50/\$75	\$8.50/\$85