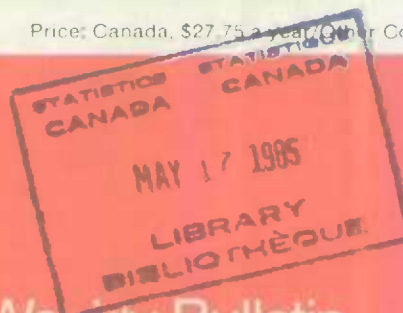


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Weekly Bulletin

May 17, 1985

The Labour Force

Employment

The seasonally adjusted level of employment for the week ending April 20, 1985 was an estimated 11,254,000, an increase of 89,000 over the level of the previous month. Virtually all of the increase was attributed to persons aged 25 and over, with an increase of 79,000, to 8,870,000. Employment levels rose by an estimated 34,000 for males in this age category, and by 45,000 among females.

Full-time employment increased by an estimated 51,000, to 9,491,000 in April. There was an increase of 34,000 for males and 17,000 for females. The estimated level of part-time employment rose by 33,000, to 1,764,000, with most of the increase arising from gains in the number of part-time jobs for females.

Employment increased sharply in the services industries (+52,000) and there were more moderate increases in the construction (+8,000), transportation, communications and utilities (+10,000), trade (+19,000), and finance (+12,000) sectors. There was little change in employment levels in the remaining industries.

Employment increased by an estimated 7,000 in New Brunswick, by 45,000 in Quebec, and by 47,000 in Ontario. There were only marginal changes in the level of employment in the other provinces.

Unemployment

The estimated seasonally adjusted level of unemployment declined by 33,000 in April, 1985, to 1,372,000. Unemployment fell by 16,000 among those aged 15 to 24, to 489,000. It decreased by an estimated 22,000 for males in this age category while it rose slightly for females. Unemployment declined by 17,000, to 883,000 for those aged 25 and over, with most of the decline occurring among males.

Unemployment declined by an estimated 7,000 in New Brunswick, by 13,000 in Quebec, by 15,000 in Ontario, and increased by 6,000 in both Newfoundland and in British Columbia. There was little or no change in the levels for the remaining provinces.

Unemployment Rate

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined by 0.3 to 10.9 in April, 1985. The rate decreased by 0.5 to 17.0 for per-
(continued page 2, col. 1)

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Feb.	412.87	411.53	3.6
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.	19,655.6	19,599.6	7.1
Persons with Jobs (million)	Apr *	11.02	10.86	3.2
Unemployed	Apr *	1,437,000	1,546,000	-2.1

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)	Mar.	95.2	95.0	-0.1
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Mar.	222.9	222.4	2.2
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Mar.	158.2	157.6	-3.8
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Mar.	317.5	316.4	2.9

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Feb.	779.1	1,553.8	3.0
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Mar.	7,077	21,001	-2.5

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)	Mar.	10,511	28,781	11.2
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Mar.	8,447	23,674	8.1

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Mar. *	20.1	55.7	2.1
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Mar. *	1,296	3,589	-4.7

SALES

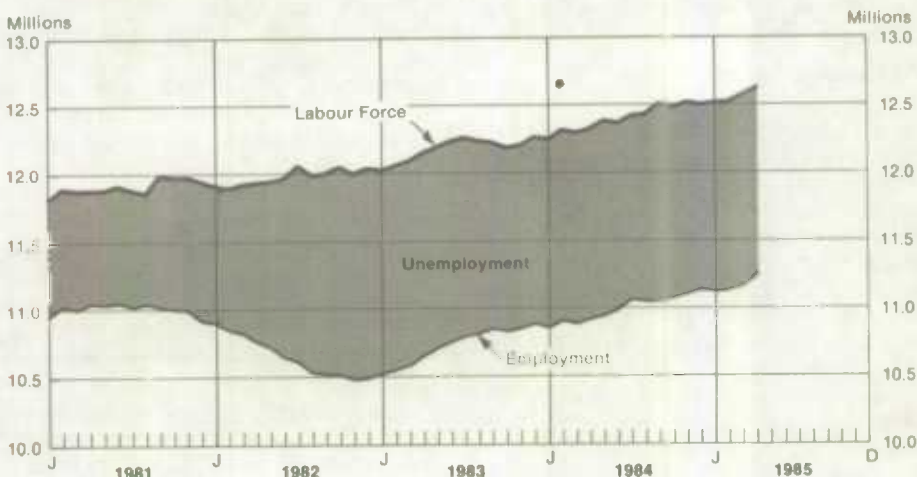
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	647.1	1,339.7	2.4
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.	18,281.4	36,538.4	5.2
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	1,741.4	4,096.8	14.7
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	8,291.0	16,815.9	8.5

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* - new this week.

The Labour Force

(Seasonally Adjusted)



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

...The Labour Force

sons aged 15 to 24, declining by 1.2 for males in this age group and increasing slightly for females. The rate declined by 0.2 to 9.1 for those aged 25 and over. It decreased for both males and females in this age category.

The unemployment rate decreased by 2.0 to 12.3 in Prince Edward Island, by 0.1 to 14.6 in Nova Scotia, by 2.2 to 14.8 in New Brunswick, by 0.6 to 12.0 in Quebec, by 0.4 to 8.3 in Ontario, by 0.3 to 8.7 in Manitoba, and by 0.5 to 8.1 in Saskatchewan. The unemployment rate rose by 2.4 to 23.6 in Newfoundland, and by 0.4 to 14.8 in British Columbia. It remained unchanged at 10.8 in Alberta this month.

Participation Rate

The seasonally adjusted participation rate rose by 0.2 to 65.3 in April, 1985. The rate rose by 0.2 to 64.7 for those aged 25 and over. It jumped by 0.5 for females in this age group, while rising only marginally for males. The participation rate remained unchanged at 70.4 for those aged 15 to 24. The rate rose by 0.5 for females in this age category and declined by a similar amount among males.

Employment/Population Ratio

The seasonally adjusted employment/-population ratio increased by 0.4 to 58.2 in April, 1985. The ratio rose by 0.3 to 55.9 for persons aged 15 to 24 and by 0.4 to 58.9 for those aged 25 and over.

Unadjusted Data

The unadjusted estimate of employment for April, 1985 was 11,015,000, an increase of 345,000 (+3.2%) over the level of the previous year. Unemployment was estimated at 1,437,000 this month, 31,000 (-2.1%) below the level of last year. The unemployment rate was 11.5 in April, 0.6 below the rate of one year ago. The participation rate was 64.4 this month, 0.9 higher than the rate of the previous year. The employment/-population ratio was 57.0 this month, 1.1 above the ratio of the previous April.

Order the April 1985 issue of The Labour Force (71-001, \$20/\$200), or contact Ken Bennett (613-990-9448), Household Surveys Division.

For summary information, available on the day of release, order Labour Force Information (71-001p, \$5/\$50).

Passenger Bus

In March 1985, 17 passenger bus carriers earning \$500,000 or more annually from inter-city and rural bus operations were surveyed.

The number of fare passengers carried was 2,245,807, a decrease of 7.4% in comparison with March 1984. During the same period, the revenue earned increased by 3.2% to \$24,012,646. The total distance run decreased by 1.4% to 18 976 873 km, and the total fuel consumed decreased by 9.6% to 7 457 515 litres.

From January first to the end of March 1985, the number of fare passengers carried was 6,263,009, a decrease of 6.3% in comparison with the first three months of 1984. During the same period, the revenue earned decreased by 0.3% to \$67,826,916.

Security Transactions

Foreign investment in outstanding Canadian securities produced a net capital inflow of \$475 million in March, about the same as was recorded in February. In the current month, net sales of outstanding Canadian bonds to non-residents rose by nearly \$100 million to \$419 million, bringing net sales for the first quarter of 1985 to \$1 billion. The bulk of the foreign investment was concentrated in Government of Canada issues and came principally from Japan and Continental Europe. The value of gross trading activity remained high at \$2.7 billion. Net sales of Canadian equities declined to \$56 million from \$166 million in February.

Residents of Canada increased their holdings of outstanding foreign securities by \$125 million in March. Net purchases of foreign equities totalled \$70 million while net acquisitions of foreign bonds, mainly United States government issues, amounted to \$55 million.

Order the March 1985 issue of Security Transactions with Non-residents (67-002, \$15/\$150), or contact John Motala (613-990-9051), International and Financial Economics Division.

Shelter Cost Data

The report entitled 1981 Shelter Cost Data: Editing and Imputation Strategies summarizes the options evaluated and exercised in providing a module for editing and imputing values to several shelter cost variables (mortgage, property taxes, fuel, etc.) in the 1981 Census of Canada. It documents the consideration given to various shelter cost elements prior to and during the process.

Order 1981 Shelter Cost Data: Editing and Imputation Strategies, April 1985 (99-943, \$15) or contact Walton O. Boxhill (613-990-9295), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.

Pulpwood and Wood Residue

Roundwood production increased by 14.7% to 3 767 447 cubic metres in March 1985 from 3 283 712 cubic metres (revised), a year earlier. Consumption of roundwood and wood residue increased by 30.6% to 7 702 520 cubic metres from 5 898 232 cubic metres (revised), and the closing inventory of these two products increased by 3.9% to 22 302 718 cubic metres from 21 461 093 cubic metres (revised) for the same period in 1984.

Receipts of wood residue increased by 87.8% to 3 706 595 cubic metres compared to 1 973 478 cubic metres for the same month in 1984.

Order the March 1985 issue of Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics (25-001, \$7/\$70), or contact Patrick Martin (613-990-9826), Industry Division.

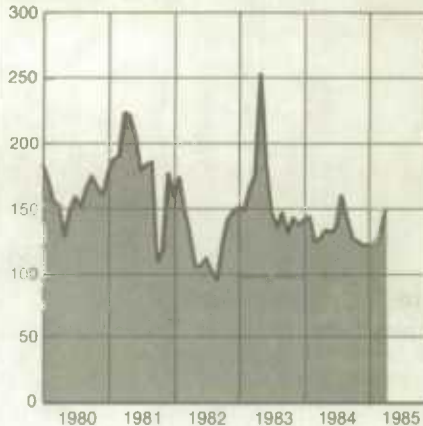
The total distance run decreased by 2.3% to 54 422 524 km and the total fuel consumed decreased by 5.4% to 22 058 223 litres.

Contact Yvan Deslauriers (613-990-8700), Transportation Division.

Housing Starts in Canada

Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates

Thousands



Source: Statistics Canada, Housing Starts and Completions

Value of Farm Land and Buildings

The index of value per acre of farm land and buildings for 1984 is estimated at 394.8 for Canada as a whole (1971=100), down 4.2% from 1983. Provincially, the index fell in all provinces with the most severe decline in Alberta at 7%. Manitoba value per acre fell 6%, Saskatchewan 4% and British Columbia fell 5% while Nova Scotia fell 4%, Quebec 3% and Ontario 2%. New Brunswick's index showed the smallest decline, a drop of 1%.

Contact George Beelen (613-990-8706), Agriculture and Natural Resources Division.

Department Store Sales by Regions

Department stores in Canada reported sales totalling \$849.1 million in March 1985, an increase of 5.2% from a year earlier. Cumulative sales for the year-to-date totalled \$2,188.3 million, up 3.4% from the same period in 1984.

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

- Ontario, \$304.1 million (+7.5%);
- Quebec, \$160.2 million (+9.4%);
- British Columbia, \$134.5 million (-1.1%);
- Alberta, \$117.8 million (+1.1%);
- Atlantic Provinces, \$58.3 million (+15.4%);
- Manitoba, \$46.2 million (+4.8%); and
- Saskatchewan, \$28.0 million (+0.6%).

Order the March 1985 issue of Department Store Sales and Stocks (63-004, \$4/\$40), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-990-9665), Industry Division.

Footwear Statistics

Canadian manufacturers produced 3,707,090 pairs of footwear in March 1985, a decrease of 4.7% from the 3,890,512 pairs produced during the same period a year ago.

Order the March 1985 issue of Footwear Statistics (33-002, \$4/\$40), or contact T. Raj Sehdev (613-990-9835), Industry Division.

Farm Input Price Index

The preliminary Farm Input Price Index (FIPI) (1981=100) for Canada for the first quarter 1985 stood at 108.6, up 1.1% from the revised fourth quarter 1984 level of 107.4. Between the first quarter 1984 and that of 1985, the index rose by 2.3%.

The main contributor to the quarterly changes was the animal production index which increased by 2.1% because of higher prices for feeder livestock (3.5%). Also increases in the indexes for farm rent (7.6%) and property taxes contributed significantly to the total quarterly change. The only index to decline was that for interest, as a consequence of lower non-mortgage interest rates. Compared to the first quarter 1984 the interest index rose by 14.2% and was the main contributor to the overall annual increase.

The FIPI for Eastern Canada rose 1.3% and for Western Canada 0.8% from the fourth quarter 1984. The main differences in price changes between the regions occurred in the indexes for machinery replacement (-0.7% East, -2.2% West) and for feeder livestock (5.6% East, 2.3% West).

Order the First Quarter 1985 issue of Farm Price Indexes (62-004, \$10/\$40), or contact the Prices Division (613-990-9606/7).

Plywood

Canadian firms produced 191,616,000 square feet, 3/8 inch basis (169 562 cubic metres, 9.525 millimetres basis), of construction type plywood during March 1985, an increase of 19.2% over the 160,761,000 square feet, 3/8 inch basis (142 257 cubic metres, 9.525 millimetres basis), produced during March 1984.

January to March 1985 production totalled 554,957,000 square feet, 3/8 inch basis (491 083 cubic metres, 9.525 millimetres basis), an increase of 5.5% over the 525,875,000 square feet, 3/8 inch basis (465 346 cubic metres, 9.525 millimetres basis), produced during the same period in 1984.

Order the March 1985 issue of Construction Type Plywood (35-001, \$4/\$40), or contact Patrick E. Martin (613-990-9826), Industry Division.

Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard

Canadian firms produced 106 790 cubic metres of waferboard during March 1985, a decrease of 0.1% compared to the 106 892 cubic metres produced during the same period in 1984.

The output of particleboard producers was 83 223 cubic metres during the month, an increase of 13.1% over the 73 615 cubic metres produced during March 1984.

February's hardboard output was 7,440,000 square feet, 1/8-inch basis, down 10.7% from the 41,911,000 square feet, 1/8-inch basis, produced in March 1984.

Order the March 1985 issue of Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard (36-003, \$4/\$40), or contact Patrick E. Martin (613-990-9826), Industry Division.

Farm Prices of Agricultural Products

The March 1985 index number of farm prices of agricultural products for Canada is 298.5 (1971=100), 0.3% less than the February 1985 number of 299.4 and 2.5% less than the March 1984 number of 306.1. The indexes from August 1984 through March 1985 are based on current initial prices for wheat, oats and barley.

Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick were the only provinces displaying higher indexes in March 1985 than in February 1985. At the Canada level, the livestock sub-index registered a 1.1% decrease led by falling hog prices, while the crop sub-index showed a 1.0% increase largely due to strong potato prices.

Order the March 1985 issue of Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products (62-003, \$6/\$60), or contact Paul Murray (613-990-8706), Farm Income and Prices Section, Agriculture/Natural Resources Division.

Railway Carloadings

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada totalled 20.1 million tonnes in March 1985, an increase of 6.3% from the previous year. The carriers received an additional 1.3 million tonnes from the United States, an increase of 3.5% from March 1984.

Commodities registering notable changes in volumes loaded for the latest month were: wheat (-23.5%); coal (+43.5%); grain (other than wheat), (-37.0%); sulphur (+35.7%).

Order the March 1985 issue of Railway Carloadings (52-001), or contact the Rail Unit (613-990-8693), Transportation Division.

The Sugar Situation

Canadian sugar refiners reported total sales of 80 366 801 kilograms of all types of sugar in April 1985, comprising 76 278 809 kilograms in domestic sales and 4 087 992 kilograms in export sales.

Order the April 1985 issue of The Sugar Situation (32-013, \$4/\$40) or contact Brian Preston (613-990-9835), Industry Division.

Chemical and Mineral Process Plant

The Chemical and Mineral Process Plant Price Index (1981=100) reached a preliminary level of 120.4 in the first quarter of 1985, up 0.8% from the revised 1984 fourth quarter level of 119.4. All major components advanced, with machinery and equipment posting a 0.9% increase, field erection 0.4%, buildings 1.0% and engineering, design and administration 0.9%.

On a year-over-year basis, comparing the first quarter of 1985 with the corresponding quarter of 1984, the total index rose 3.0%. Machinery and equipment rose 3.3%, buildings increased 3.2% and the 4.1% increase in engineering, design and administration was tempered by a 1.0% increase for field erection. The labour component of field erection and the structural support, paint and insulation component of machinery and equipment decreased marginally.

Contact Les Graham (613-990-9601), Capital Expenditures Prices Section, Prices Division.

Chemical and Petrochemical Plant

The Chemical and Petrochemical Plant Price Index (1981=100) rose to a preliminary level of 120.4 in the first quarter of 1985, up 0.7% from the revised 1984 fourth quarter level of 119.6. Machinery and equipment increased 0.8%, construction indirects 0.6%, buildings 1.0% and engineering, design and administration 0.9%. Construction labour was unchanged.

Comparing the first quarter of 1985 with the first quarter of 1984, the total index rose 2.6%. Machinery and equipment increased 3.4%, buildings increased 3.2%, engineering, design and administration rose 3.9% and the 1.6% increase for construction indirects was partially offset by a decrease in construction labour of 0.2%.

Contact Les Graham (613-990-9601), Capital Expenditures Prices Section, Prices Division.

Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns

Preliminary estimates show that restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts for March 1985 totalled \$939.6 million, an increase of 11.1% over the figure of \$846.0 million reported for March 1984 and up 18.0% from February 1985.

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

Urban Transit

In March 1985, 65 Canadian urban transit systems collected 132,010,069 initial passenger fares. The total distance run was 71 833 397 kilometres, the total operating revenues amounted to \$76,657,784.

Order the March 1985 issue of Urban Transit (53-003, \$6.50/\$65), or contact the head (613-990-8700), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division.

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Department store sales and stocks, February 1985	63-002	\$13/\$130	\$14/\$140
Electricity bills, 1985	57-203	\$20	\$21
Electric lamps (light bulbs and tubes), March 1985	43-009	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Gypsum products, March 1985	44-003	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Merchandising inventories, February 1985	63-014	\$12/\$120	\$13/\$130
Production and disposition of tobacco products, March 1985	32-022	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Production, shipments and stocks on hand of sawmills in British Columbia, February 1985	35-003	\$6/\$60	\$7/\$70
Rigid insulating board, March 1985	36-002	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Shipments of solid fuel burning heating products, Quarter ended March 1985	25-002	\$10/\$40	\$11/\$44
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Railway carloadings, February 1985	52-001	\$7.50/\$75	\$8.50/\$85

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