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Weekly Bulletin

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JUN 28 1985

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June 28, 1985

## Gross Domestic Product (Including Industrial Production)

(Based on Seasonally Adjusted Data)

Gross Domestic Product in constant 1971 prices advanced 0.4% in April 1985 following an upwardly revised growth rate of 0.5% in March. The level of GDP in April stood 0.8% above the first quarter average. Industrial production advanced 0.8% in April, the first monthly increase in 1985.

About three-quarters of the April GDP gain originated within goods-producing industries which grew a strong 0.8%. These industries have now recovered all the output lost over the previous two months and are at their highest level since July 1984. The major contributors to the gain among goods-producing industries were manufacturing and construction. Output of service-producing industries was virtually unchanged in April.

Manufacturing output increased by 1.0% in April with almost 85.0% of the manufacturing growth due to the resumption of production in two industries following labour disputes — breweries and manufacturers of rubber and plastic products. Other increases were recorded by manufacturers of motor vehicles, furniture and fixtures, metal fabricated products, chemicals and primary metals. In April, 57 of 107 component industries in manufacturing increased their output compared to 50 in March. Among industries which reported output declines, the most significant were manufacturers of motor vehicle parts and accessories, pulp and paper mills, sawmills and producers of office and store machinery. Export volumes of woodpulp, newsprint and office machinery decreased during April.

Output in the construction industry increased 1.7% in April, marking the first substantial rise since the same month one year ago. Both residential and non-residential building activity recorded advances this month.

The strongest increase in the service industries was in finance, insurance and real estate, where output increases among insurance and real estate agencies, and security brokers and dealers contributed largely to the gain. An active housing market accounted for the growth among insurance and real estate agencies which have grown strongly in three of the last four months.

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## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Apr.*	418.54	413.99	4.2
Labour Income (\$ million)	Mar.	19,756.0	19,565.3	7.4
Persons with Jobs (million)	May	11.41	11.02	3.6
Unemployed	May	1,329,000	1,437,000	-9.0

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Apr.	3,540.7	3,275.6	-1.8
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Apr.	34,049.5	34,181.2	4.7

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Apr.	19,994.8	20,458.3	8.4
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Apr.	22,390.0	22,458.9	4.8

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	May	126.5	126.2	3.9
New House Price Index (1981=100)	Apr.	95.3	95.2	-0.2
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Apr.	223.2	223.1	2.2
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Apr.	158.6	158.2	-3.8
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Apr.	317.8	317.6	2.4

### CONSTRUCTION

			Year-to-date	
Building Permits (\$ million)	Mar.	1,184.8	2,788.7	5.2
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Apr.	11,714	32,715	6.9

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Mar.*	5,592	15,951	14.6
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Mar.*	40,766	123,353	5.9
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Mar.*	8,962	28,248	12.5
Petroleum Refining (thousand cubic metres)	Mar.*	6,960	20,407	-10.5

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Apr.	10,360	39,141	12.2
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Apr.	8,907	32,581	9.9

### PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Apr.	20.5	76.2	2.5
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	May*	1,250	6,029	-4.9

### SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	901.4	3,089.7	6.9
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Mar.	20,155.4	56,730.6	4.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	2,029.5	6,126.3	21.5
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Apr.*	10,370.0	37,352.8	11.6

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

\* - new this week.

## Gross Domestic Product

(Seasonally Adjusted)



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

Canada

### ...Gross Domestic Product

The major decline in services was in wholesale trade, which had strong month-to-month fluctuations, after a significant 5.9% increase the month before. Wholesale trade output in April was 0.9% above its average level in the previous six months. Strong output decreases were reported by wholesalers of farm products, electrical machinery and equipment, lumber and building materials, and miscellaneous products. A slight decrease in retail trade this month follows a large 3.4% jump in March. Among retailers, department stores, clothing stores, service stations and garages all recorded output declines. New motor vehicle dealers reported a substantial 6.0% gain in April following an equally large increase in March. Output of new motor vehicle dealers in April 1985 stood 21.0% above the same month last year.

Users should note that Gross Domestic Product will be revised beginning with the data for 1983 to incorporate more recent annual estimates, as well as new seasonal factors. As a result, the release of data for May 1985 will be delayed until sometime during the week of August 5.

Order the April 1985 issue of Gross Domestic Product by Industry (61-005, \$10/\$100) or contact Ron Kennedy (613-990-9145), Industry Measures and Analysis Division.

### Retail Trade

#### Unadjusted Sales:

Preliminary estimates of total retail trade for April 1985 show an increase of 11.6% over the same month last year, totalling \$10,370.0 million in current dollars (not adjusted for inflation). All types of businesses surveyed reported increased sales in April 1985 as compared to last year, with the exception of florists whose sales remained unchanged. The most notable increases were reported in household appliance stores (+27.7%), motor vehicle dealers (+27.2%) and book and stationery stores (+17.9%).

All provinces and territories reported sales increases in April 1985 over the corresponding month in 1984, with gains ranging from 3.9% in Prince Edward Island to 15.4% in Nova Scotia. At the metropolitan area level, sales advanced in all cities for which data are published: Winnipeg (+15.2%); Toronto (+13.3%); Vancouver (+10.4%); and Montreal (+8.7%).

Cumulative retail sales for the first four months of 1985 were \$37,352.8 million, up 9.4% over the same period a year earlier.

The revised sales estimates for March 1985 amounted to \$9,999.5 million, an increase of 9.1% over March 1984.

#### Seasonally Adjusted Sales:

Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations, holidays and the number of selling days, retail sales totalled \$10,463.3 million in current dollars in April 1985, a decrease of 1.0% over the preceding month's revised total of \$10,564.1 million. The largest sales decreases were recorded by: household furniture stores (-6.4%); sporting goods and

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accessories stores (-4.4%); and women's clothing stores (-4.3%). The most notable increases were reported by: used car dealers (+5.3%); household appliance stores (+3.5%); and combination stores (groceries and meat) (+1.2%).

Higher sales were reported in Quebec (+0.9%), Alberta (+0.8%) and Prince Edward Island (+0.4%) in April 1985 compared to March; the remaining provinces and territories recorded lower sales with declines ranging from 0.1% in Newfoundland to 2.3% in Saskatchewan. In the metropolitan areas surveyed, gains were posted in Montreal (+1.0%) and in Vancouver (+0.7%), while declines were reported in Toronto (-1.4%) and in Winnipeg (-0.4%).

Order the April 1985 issue of Retail Trade (63-005, \$14/\$140), or contact Lina Di Piédro, (613-990-9665), Industry Division.

### Employment, Earnings and Hours

The preliminary estimates of employment for the Canada industrial aggregate increased by 0.5% from March to April 1985. All industry divisions contributed to the increase except forestry, mining and services which decreased. Newfoundland, Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories all registered decreases, while the remaining provinces registered increases.

Average weekly earnings, at the Canada industrial aggregate level, increased by 0.6% from \$413.99 in March to \$416.54 in April. All industry divisions contributed to the increase except manufacturing which decreased slightly. All provinces and territories registered increases except for Newfoundland and New Brunswick.

Order the April 1985 issue of Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002, \$35/\$350) available the third week of July. Contact Jack Beauregard (613-990-9900), Labour Division.

### Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production

During March 1985, production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons amounted to 7 952.8<sup>p</sup> thousand cubic metres, up 3.0% from the previous year. Exports were up 45.1% to 2 540.3 thousand cubic metres, and imports fell 44.3% to 874.1 thousand cubic metres. Canadian refinery receipts of crude oil totalled 6 150.8 thousand cubic metres, down 16.8% from the previous year.

During the same month, net withdrawals of natural gas rose 13.3% to 8 961.8 million cubic metres. Marketable production of natural gas after treatment at processing plants amounted to 7 177.4 million cubic metres, up 15.0%, while net withdrawals of natural gas liquids (propane, butanes and ethane), reached 1 335.9<sup>p</sup> thousand cubic metres, up 7.8% from the previous year. Exports of natural gas amounted to 2 460.3 million cubic metres, up 42.2%, and sales in Canada rose 3.1% from last year to 5 355.4 million cubic metres.

*p = preliminary figures.*

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

### Estimates of Labour Income

Labour income for the month of March 1985 was estimated at \$19,756.0 million, an increase of \$1,360.4 million or 7.4% from March 1984.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries increased by \$63.8 million between February and March 1985 to \$18,205.4 million.

Order the January - March, 1985 issue of Estimates of Labour Income (72-005, \$15/\$60), or contact Georgette Gauthier (613-990-9900), Labour Division.

### Average Weekly Earnings in Canadian Industry

April 1985\*

Industry Division

Mining .....	\$697.13
Forestry .....	\$574.01
Transportation, Communication and other Utilities .....	\$537.10
Public Administration .....	\$529.05
Construction .....	\$511.86
Manufacturing .....	\$487.16
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate .....	\$444.08
<b>Industrial Aggregate .....</b>	<b>\$416.54</b>
Community, Business and Personal Services .....	\$355.14
Trade .....	\$302.20

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

\* Preliminary Estimates



## Union Wage Rate Indexes,

The Canada total Union Wage Rate Index (1981=100) for construction trades (including supplements) increased by 3.3% to 132.0 in May from April's level of 127.8. The city index level for Halifax rose 9.7% and 0.8% in Saint John. In Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia city index levels advanced 4.4% on average. Winnipeg moved 2.0%, while indexes in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Newfoundland showed no change.

On a year-to-year basis, the Canada total level rose 3.2%. On a city basis, the largest annual increase was reported in Halifax (12.6%). Cities in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia increased 4.5% on average. Winnipeg advanced slightly (2.0%) as did the Saint John index (1.5%). Cities in Saskatchewan and Alberta reported no change. Conversely, the index for St. John's posted a decrease of 9.8%. This decline was the result of a roll-back in contract settlements for select trades in August 1984.

Associated increases in the "basic only" Union Wage Rate indexes approximated those displayed for the basic plus supplement indexes. The only exceptions were Vancouver and Victoria where the monthly "basic only" indexes increased by 2.9% and 3.0%, respectively.

It should be noted that the estimates of year-over-year change are derived from contract agreements which have already been signed in all survey provinces except Saskatchewan and Alberta. Rates for these two provinces remain at their last contract level. Users are reminded that these indexes have a two-year revision policy.

*Order, the second quarter issue of Construction Price Statistics (62-007, \$15/\$60), or contact Lisa Gay Tremblay (613-990-9601), Prices Division.*

## Community Colleges and Vocational Schools: Educational Staff and Median Salary

Preliminary data on full-time educational staff in Canadian community colleges and vocational schools in the fall of 1983 indicate a slight increase of 1.0% or 184 staff members over the preceding year. Only one province (Saskatchewan at 13.6%) showed a noticeable increase in both post-secondary and trade level programs.

The number of educational staff for post-secondary programs rose by 1.6% (167 members) to 10,135. New Brunswick and Saskatchewan showed respective increases of 18.1% and 14.6%, other provinces showed increases of less than 6.0%, while Newfoundland, Manitoba and British Columbia recorded respective declines of 4.3%, 4.4% and 3.2%.

At the postsecondary level, increases in the median salaries ranged from 3.5% in British Columbia to 13.2% in Saskatchewan. New Brunswick and Manitoba showed respective increases of 12.1% and 11.2%.

## Wholesale Trade

### Sales

Spurred by a strong increase in the sales of machinery and equipment components and imported motor vehicles, wholesale merchants' sales rose significantly for the second consecutive month, resulting in a 13.7% advance in April 1985 over the same period last year. Revised sales for March 1985 were up 12.0% from the March 1984 level.

In April 1985, all major trade groups registered increased sales from a year earlier, with the exception of lumber and building materials (-4.8%). The most notable gains were reported by the following major trade groups: other machinery, equipment and supplies (+24.8%); motor vehicles and accessories (+24.5%); and metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment (+21.6%). All regions posted sales increases from a year earlier, ranging from 17.5% in the Atlantic provinces to 9.1% in British Columbia (including the Yukon and Northwest Territories).

Cumulative sales by wholesale merchants for the first four months of 1985 were up a significant 10.2% over the January-April 1984 period. Notable gains were reported by wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies (+20.1%); and metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment (+19.5%).

### Inventories

Wholesale inventories in April 1985 increased by 6.2% from the corresponding period in 1984. Revised inventories for March 1985 were up 6.4% from the March 1984 level.

The ratio of inventories to sales at the end of April 1985 was 1.65:1, down significantly from 1.76:1 a year earlier.

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

The number of educational staff for trade level programs increased by 17 to 6,687, a marginal gain of less than 0.5%. Saskatchewan and Alberta were the only two provinces showing increases of more than 6.0%. Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Manitoba showed the largest decreases, between 7.0% and 8.0% each.

The median salaries of educational staff in trade level programs all increased by more than 5.0%. British Columbia showed the smallest increase at 5.7%, while Saskatchewan showed the largest increase at 13.5%. Five provinces showed increases of more than 10.0%, namely: Nova Scotia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan.

*Order the 1983-84 edition of Educational Staff of Community Colleges and Vocational Schools (81-254, \$20), or contact R. Lortie or D. Lynd (613-990-8283), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.*

## Benefit Periods under the Unemployment Insurance Act

In 1983, over 11.2 million persons contributed to unemployment insurance and one out of three contributors received benefits during that year.

The number of persons receiving unemployment benefits continued to increase in 1983, albeit at a lower rate than in 1982. After advancing by 28.4% in 1982, the number of beneficiaries rose by 8.7% to 3.4 million in 1983; compared with 1981, the increase is 39.6%.

Females continued to remain on claim longer than males. The average duration of a benefit period terminated in 1983 was 26.3 weeks for females and 24.9 weeks for males.

*Order the 1983 issue of Benefit Periods Established and Terminated Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, (73-201, \$30), or contact J.-P. Maynard or H. Stiebert (613-990-9900), Labour Division.*

## Department Store Sales

Department stores in Canada reported sales totalling \$901.4 million in April 1985, an increase of 6.9% from a year earlier.

Cumulative sales for the period January to April 1985 totalled \$3,089.7 million, up 4.4% from the same period in 1984.

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

- Atlantic Provinces, \$64.2 million (+3.8%);
- Quebec, \$175.4 million (+8.1%);
- Ontario, \$329.7 million (+8.8%);
- Manitoba, \$48.6 million (+7.1%);
- Saskatchewan, \$29.3 million (+6.9%);
- Alberta, \$117.6 million (+3.8%); and
- British Columbia, \$136.7 million (+7.1%).

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

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Weekly Bulletin

Published by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada.

Senior Editor: Vicki Crompton (613-993-7444)

Editor: Deanna Jamieson  
(613-993-7444), R.H. Coats Building,  
Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Catalogue 11-002E Price: Canada, \$2/\$100; other countries, \$3/\$150. To subscribe: send money order or cheque payable to the Receiver General for Canada to Publication Sales and Services, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED JUNE 21 — 27

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
<b>AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
Farm cash receipts, January-April 1985	21-001	\$7/\$70	\$8/\$80
Index numbers of farm prices of agricultural products, April 1985	62-003	\$6/\$60	\$7/\$70
Production of poultry and eggs, 1984	23-202	\$30	\$31
<b>INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE</b>			
Industrial corporations, First Quarter 1985	61-003P	\$15/\$60	\$16/\$64
<b>INDUSTRY</b>			
Construction type plywood, April 1985	35-001	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Factory sales of electric storage batteries, April 1985	43-005	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard, April 1985	36-003	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Production, shipments and stocks on hand of sawmills east of the Rockies, March 1985	35-002	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
Refined petroleum products, March 1985	45-004	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
Steel wire and specified wire products, April 1985	41-006	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
<b>INTERNATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS</b>			
International Travel, April 1985	66-001P	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
Travel between Canada and other countries, January-March 1985	<del>66-001</del>	<del>\$35/\$140</del>	<del>\$36.50/\$148</del>
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>			
Imports by countries, January-March 1985	<del>65-006</del>	<del>\$75/\$300</del>	<del>\$85/\$340</del>
Summary of Canadian international trade, April 1985	65-001	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
<b>LABOUR</b>			
Employment, earnings and hours, March 1985	72-002	\$35/\$350	\$36.50/\$365
Quarterly Estimates of Trusteed Pension Funds, Fourth Quarter 1984	74-001	\$10/\$40	\$11/\$44
<b>PRICES</b>			
Construction price statistics, First Quarter 1985	62-007	\$15/\$60	\$16/\$64
<b>PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS</b>			
Provincial government enterprise finance, 1982	61-204	\$25	\$26.50
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Air passenger origin and destination, 1983	51-205	\$74	\$87
Railway carloadings, 10-day period ending May 31, 1985, Vol. 1, No.7	52-005	\$75	\$100
Railway carloadings, 7-day period ending June 7, 1985, Vol. 1, No.8	52-005	\$75	\$100

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