

Statistics
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Weekly Bulletin



September 27, 1985

Wholesale Trade

Sales

Spurred by strong increases in sales of machinery and equipment and imported motor vehicles, wholesale merchants' sales rose significantly in July 1985, advancing 16.2% over the same period last year. Revised sales for June 1985 were up 8.5% from the June 1984 level.

In July 1985, all major trade groups registered increased sales from a year earlier. The most notable gains were reported by the following major trade groups: motor vehicles and accessories (+29.9%); farm machinery, equipment and supplies (+24.7%); metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment (+21.7%); and other machinery, equipment and supplies (+21.1%). All regions posted sales increases from a year earlier, ranging from 8.7% in the Atlantic Provinces to 19.2% in Ontario.

(continued on page 2, col. 1)

Employment and Earnings

Preliminary data for July 1985 showed an estimated 9,084.8 thousand employees for the Canada industrial aggregate, down 1.1% from June 1985. Decreases were noted in forestry (-1.2%), transportation, communication and other utilities (-1.3%) and community, business and personal services (-3.0%). The construction industries increased by 1.9%, while mines, quarries and oil wells advanced 1.8%. The remaining industry groups showed no significant changes. All provinces registered decreases in employment except Newfoundland, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Average weekly earnings at the Canada industrial aggregate level were estimated at \$419.84 for July, virtually unchanged from \$419.81 in June. Decreases registered in forestry (-6.0%) and community, business and personal services (-1.1%) were offset by increases in mines, quarries and oil wells (+1.1%), transportation, communication and other utilities (+1.2%) and finance, insurance and real estate (+1.8%). At the provincial level the most significant changes were registered in Newfoundland (+1.6%), Prince Edward Island (-1.2%), Alberta (+1.5%), British Columbia (-1.2%), the Yukon (+1.6%) and the Northwest Territories (+5.4%). The remaining provinces showed little change.

Order the July 1985 issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, \$35/\$350), or contact Jack Beauregard (613-990-9900), Labour Division.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

Average Weekly Earnings(\$)	June	419.47	417.21	2.8
Labour Income (\$ million)	June	21,176.8	20,712.9	6.1
Persons with Jobs (million)	Aug.	11.83	11.83	2.7
Unemployed	Aug.	1,253,000	1,272,000	-7.0

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	July	3,393.3	3,292.1	2.6
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	July	33,856.2	33,923.6	4.3

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	July	19,339.3	21,136.2	12.7
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	July	22,668.6	22,576.8	3.0

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981 = 100)	Aug.	127.8	127.6	4.0
New House Price Index (1981 = 100)	July	95.9	95.6	0.7
Raw Materials Price Index (1977 = 100)	July	217.6	222.1	0.1
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	July	155.1	157.4	-4.7
Industry Selling Price Index (1971 = 100)	July	319.5	318.8	2.1

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	June	1,638.9	8,628.7	19.3
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	July	12,690	73,362	14.6

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	May	5 141	26 094	13.2
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	June	32 077	224 618	4.8
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	May	7 242	43 217	11.2
Petroleum Refining (thousand cubic metres)	June	7 292	40 776	-6.0

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	July	8,425	68,736	6.9
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	July	8,659	59,234	10.7

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	July	19.5	138.3	0.6
Steel (ingots - thousand tonnes)	July*	1 066	8 376	-3.6

SALES

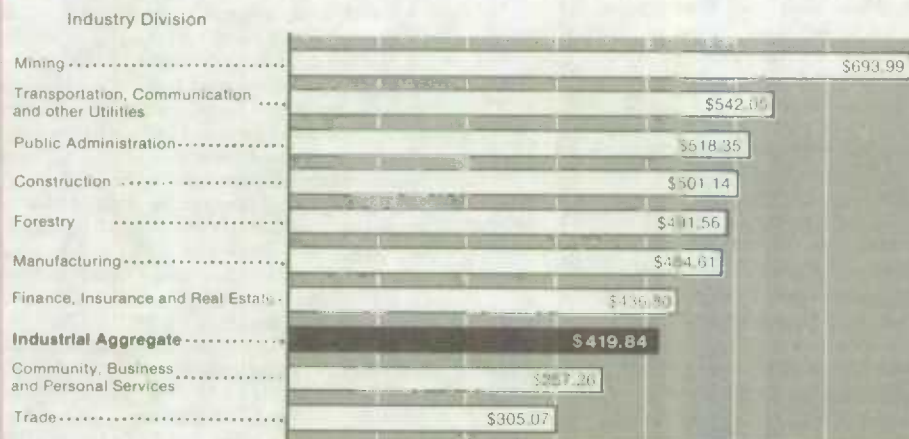
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	July	875.7	5,884.1	4.4
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	July	19,247.4	138,620.8	6.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	July	1,610.1	11,803.3	22.8
Retail Sales (\$ million)	July	10,656.2	70,684.5	9.7

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* - new this week.

Average Weekly Earnings in Canadian Industry

July 1985 *



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

* Preliminary Estimates

Canada

... Wholesale Trade

Cumulative sales by wholesale merchants for the first seven months of 1985 were up 11.1% over the January-July 1984 period. Significant gains were reported by wholesalers of motor vehicles and accessories (+18.4%); metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment (+18.0%); and other machinery, equipment and supplies (+17.6%).

Inventories

Wholesale inventories in July 1985 increased by 6.0% over the corresponding period in 1984. Revised inventories for June 1985 were up 6.4% from the June 1984 level. The ratio of inventories to sales at the end of July 1985 stood at 1.61:1, down from 1.76:1 a year earlier.

Order the July 1985 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$5/\$50), or contact Gilles Berniquez (613-991-3537), Industry Division.

Refined Petroleum Products and Natural Gas

Preliminary figures show that in July 1985, sales of refined petroleum products in Canada decreased by 0.9% from a year earlier, while sales of natural gas increased by 3.0%. Cumulative figures for the first seven months of 1985 show sales of petroleum products fell 1.9% from the 1984 level, while sales of natural gas were up by 4.4%.

Refined Petroleum Products

During July 1985, sales of petroleum products by Canadian refiners and major distributors amounted to 6 647 600 cubic metres, down 0.9% from the level recorded in July 1984. Sales of the main products, with the percentage changes from July 1984 in brackets, were as follows: motor gasoline, 3 108 800 cubic metres (+2.0%); kerosene stove oil, 29 100 cubic metres (+0.6%); diesel fuel, 1 368 600 cubic metres (+2.7%); light fuel oil, 134 700 cubic metres (+5.8%) and heavy fuel oil, 296 800 cubic metres (-46.8%). Production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners amounted to 7 784 611 cubic metres, down 3.2% from July 1984.

For the first seven months of 1985, sales of refined petroleum products amounted to 44 388 999 cubic metres, down 1.9% from the level recorded during the same period of 1984. Year-to-date sales of the main products with the January to July 1984 sales in brackets, were as follows: motor gasoline, 18 769 136 cubic metres (-0.01%); kerosene stove oil, 472 819 cubic metres (-1.3%); diesel fuel, 8 409 372 cubic metres (+0.01%); light fuel oil, 4 696 702 cubic metres (-8.9%) and heavy fuel oil, 3 410 255 cubic metres (-22.4%). Year-to-date production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners amounted to 48 560 761 cubic metres, down 5.6% from the same period in 1984.

Natural Gas

During July 1985, sales of natural gas by main distributors amounted to 2 485 587 thousand cubic metres, up 3.0% from the level recorded the previous year. On the basis of rate structure information sales were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from July 1984 in

Union Wage Rates

The Canada total Union Wage Rate Index (1981=100) for construction trades (including supplements) registered no change between July and August 1985, remaining at a level of 132.1.

On a year-over-year basis, the Canada total level rose 3.4%. On a city basis, the largest annual increase was reported in Halifax (11.6%). Cities in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia increased 4.4% on average. Winnipeg advanced 2.0%, Saint John rose 3.9% and St. John's moved 3.4%.

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

Air Passengers

During the third quarter of 1984, the total number of passengers carried on domestic scheduled services (3,170,010 passengers) increased by 6.0% compared to the same period in 1983. Year-to-date figures showed a 6.2% increase to 8,832,540 passengers in 1984 from 8,315,500 passengers in 1983. The largest percentage increases for the first nine months of 1984 compared to 1983 were recorded for Ottawa-Vancouver (20.2%) and Halifax-Toronto (19.6%). Calgary-Edmonton (-8.7%) and Prince George-Vancouver (-7.0%) showed the largest percentage decreases.

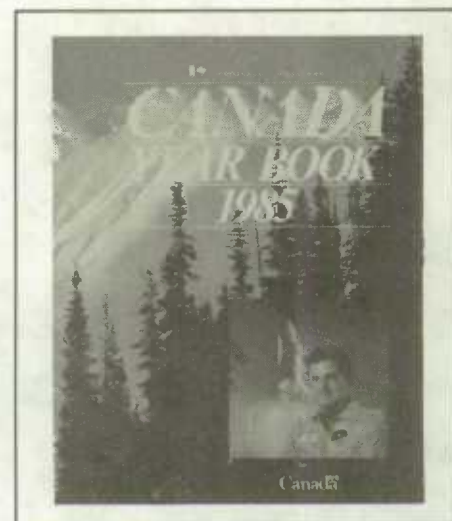
The total number of scheduled air passengers travelling between Canada and the United States increased to 1,766,040 passengers during the third quarter of 1984, up 6.4% from the number recorded for the same period in 1983. Year-to-date figures increased to 5,189,630 passengers in 1984 from 4,760,480 passengers in 1983, an increase of 9.0%. The largest percentage increases for year-to-date figures were recorded for Toronto-Detroit (25.3%), Toronto-Dallas/Fort Worth (22.9%) and Montreal-Washington/Baltimore (21.6%).

Order the September 1985 issue of the *Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin* (51-004, \$8.50/\$85), or contact K. Davidson (819-990-1989), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division.

brackets: residential sales, 348 911 thousand cubic metres (+7.9%); commercial sales, 286 449 thousand cubic metres (+5.4%) and industrial sales, 1 850 227 thousand cubic metres (+1.8%).

For the first seven months of 1985, sales of natural gas amounted to 30 079 092 cubic metres, up 4.4% from the level recorded during the same period of 1984. On the basis of rate structure information sales were broken down as follows with the percentage changes from January to July 1984 in brackets: residential sales, 8 075 797 thousand cubic metres (+3.1%); commercial sales, 6 619 710 thousand cubic metres (+5.3%) and industrial sales, 15 383 585 thousand cubic metres (+4.8%).

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



Canada Year Book

The *Canada Year Book*, now available, offers a comprehensive statistical portrait of Canada's social, cultural, economic and institutional environment over 894 pages of analytical text, tables and graphs.

For anyone who needs comprehensive data on Canada and Canadians, the *Year Book* will prove to be an indispensable tool.

In 23 chapters and 10 appendices, the 1985 edition statistically explores Canada's geography, her wealth of natural resources and the lives of her people: what jobs they hold and how much they earn, where they live and what they live in, their health, education and cultural and leisure activities. Its comprehensive text and tabular material also provides information on Canadian manufacturing, foreign trade, the transportation network, the health of the science and technology industry, and the financial situation of its governments.

The *Canada Year Book* rounds out its portrait of Canada with an examination of the recent recession, a look at the results of the last two federal elections and descriptions of the various federal government departments, their functions and mandates.

Order the 1985 edition of the *Canada Year Book* (11-402E, \$54/\$70) from the nearest Statistics Canada regional office, or contact Publication Sales and Services (613-993-7276).

Deliveries of Major Grains

Producer deliveries of major grains by Prairie farmers during August 1985 were as follows (in thousand metric tonnes):

• Wheat (excluding durum),	413.7;
• Durum wheat,	111.2;
• Total Wheat,	524.9;
• Oats,	3.8;
• Barley,	109.7;
• Rye,	27.4;
• Flaxseed,	2.8;
• Canola (rapeseed),	49.1.

Order the August 1985 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007, \$10/\$100), or contact Allister Hickson (204-949-2556), Agriculture and Natural Resources Division, Winnipeg, or Glenn Lennox (613-990-8717), Agriculture and Natural Resources Division, Ottawa.

Construction Activity

The leading indicator of building construction activity in Canada (1981=100) advanced, but at a slower pace in May, up 1.6% from the previous month to 83.3. Both the residential sector and to a lesser extent the non-residential sector, were responsible for this slower increase.

The filtered index of residential construction rose in May by 2.6% from the preceding month to 86.7. From January to May this index went from 74.1 to 86.7; this increase of 17.0% represents an average monthly rise of 4.2% during the period. The upward movement was supported by a strengthening of building construction intentions for both types of dwellings: single and multi-family. On a regional basis, the trend-cycle of building permits issued, declined slightly in Quebec, while gains were recorded in all other regions.

The filtered index of non-residential construction (excluding engineering projects) edged up (+0.4%) from April to 79.6 in May. The commercial sector was the only component of the non-residential index to show a gain (+2.2%) in May. A substantial decrease recorded by the industrial index (-6.0%) marked a second down signal following the 1.2% decrease caused by the revision of the April index. Meanwhile, the public sector component edged down marginally (-0.5%). The trend-cycle of non-residential permits issued, indicated an upward movement in all regions, except in the Atlantic Provinces.

Order the June 1985 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$20/\$200), or contact *Lillette Gervais-Simard* (613-990-9689), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

Electric Power Statistics

The net generation of electricity in Canada in June 1985 increased by 2.9% to 32 077 gigawatt hours from 31 172 gigawatt hours a year earlier. Exports of electric power increased 18.9% to 3 813 gigawatt hours from 3 206 gigawatt hours and imports decreased by 9.8% to 259 gigawatt hours from the June 1984 level of 287 gigawatt hours.

During the first six months of 1985, the net generation of electricity totalled 224 618 gigawatt hours, up 4.8% from the January-June 1984 level of 214 258 gigawatt hours. Exports of electricity rose 5.7% to 19 961 gigawatt hours from 18 881 gigawatt hours and imports rose 21.6% to 1 683 gigawatt hours from 1 384 gigawatt hours.

Order the June 1985 issue of *Electric Power Statistics* (57-001, \$8/\$80), or contact *Dave Madsen* (613-991-3565), Industry Division.

Honey Production

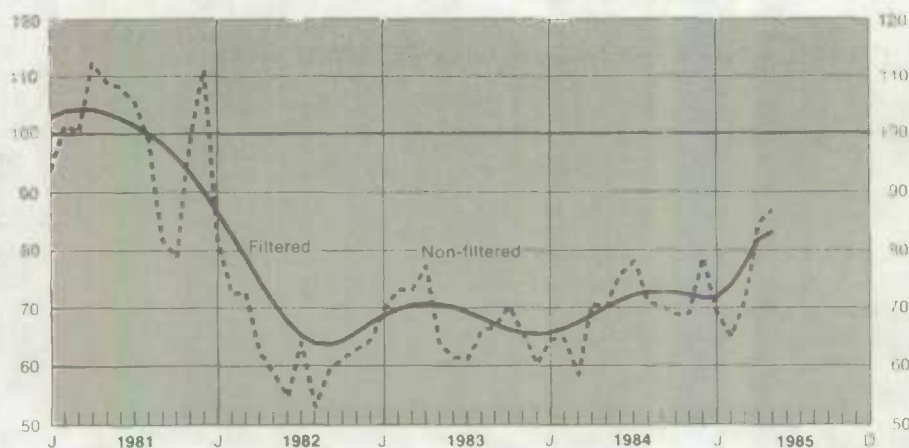
Canadian honey production in 1985 is estimated at 77,566 thousand pounds, a decrease of 19% from last year's production of 95,454 thousand pounds.

The average yield per colony at the national level is expected to be 112 pounds compared to 135 pounds in 1984.

Order the 1984 edition of *Honey Production and Value* (23-210, \$10/\$11), or contact *A. Mathieson* (613-991-3854), Agriculture and Natural Resources Division.

Indexes of Construction Activity in Canada

1981=100



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

Canadian Crime Statistics

Final 1984 crime statistics released by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, show that Criminal Code offences reported by Canadian police forces decreased 0.04% between 1983 (2,148,633) and 1984 (2,147,697). The rate per 100,000 population declined by 1.0% in Canada to 8,548 in 1984 from 8,634 in 1983. This is only the second yearly decrease recorded in Criminal Code offences since 1962.

Order *Canadian Crime Statistics, 1984* (85-205, \$25), or contact *S. de Silva* (613-990-6642).

Telecommunications Plant Price

The Canadian Telecommunications Plant Price Index (1981=100) reached a preliminary level of 119.9 for 1984, up 3.4% from the revised 1983 level.

The index measures price change through time for capital expenditures made by the leading members of the Canadian Telecommunications industry.

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

Arts and Culture: a Statistical Profile

Arts and Culture: a Statistical Profile, to be available October 1, presents highlights of Canada's art and culture using a variety of charts and statistical information.

Topics covered include the arts and culture labour force; producers and distributors of cultural goods (such as books, newspapers and periodicals, films and records); heritage institutions and public libraries; patterns of cultural consumption and the role that governments play in funding cultural activities. Also provided is a short description of the Culture Statistics Programme and information about complementary and supplementary data that are

Electric Light Bulbs and Tubes

Canadian light bulb and tube manufacturers sold 20,265,992 units during August 1985, an increase of 1.1% over the 20,032,557 units sold during the previous month. These represented \$22,026,935 worth of sales to Canadian manufacturers in August 1985, a 10.0% increase over July 1985.

Order the August 1985 issue of *Electric Lamps (Light Bulbs and Tubes)* (43-009, \$4/\$40), or contact the Industry Division (613-991-3531/2).

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available from other divisions of Statistics Canada.

Order *Arts and Culture: A Statistical Profile* (87-527, \$14), or contact *James R. MacDonald* (613-990-9035), or *Michel Durand* (613-993-6862), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.



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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED SEPTEMBER 20-26

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES			
An Overview of Canadian Grain Milling	22-502	\$10	\$11
Farm Cash Receipts, January-July 1985	21-001	\$7/\$70	\$8/\$80
The Dairy Review, July 1985	23-001	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS			
Canadian Crime Statistics, 1984	85-205	\$25	\$26.50
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM			
Culture Statistics: Book Publishing Industry, 1983	87-525	\$10	\$11
INDUSTRY			
Electric Power Statistics, May 1985	57-001	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, July 1985	43-005	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Footwear Statistics, July 1985	33-002	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Gas Utilities, May 1985	55-002	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
Merchandising Inventories, May 1985	63-014	\$12/\$120	\$13/\$130
Merchandising Inventories, June 1985	63-014	\$12/\$120	\$13/\$130
Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, August 1985	32-001	\$2/\$20	\$3/\$30
Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe, Tubing and Fittings, July 1985	41-011	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, July 1985	41-006	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Wholesale Trade, June 1985	63-008	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
INTERNATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS			
Security Transactions with Non-residents, June 1985	67-002	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
INTERNATIONAL TRADE			
Summary of Canadian International Trade, July 1985	65-001	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
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Telephone Statistics, July 1985	56-002	\$7.50/\$75	\$8.50/\$85
TRANSPORTATION			
Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics, July 1985	53-003	\$6.50/\$65	\$7.50/\$75
Railway Carloadings, July 1985	52-001	\$7.50/\$75	\$8.50/\$85
Railway Carloadings, 10-Day Period Ending August 31, 1985	52-005	\$75	\$100
Railway Carloadings, 7-Day Period Ending September 7, 1985	52-005	\$75	\$100
Railway Operating Statistics, March 1985	52-003	\$9.50/\$95	\$10.50/\$105

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).

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