

I·N·F·O·M·A·T

A W E E K L Y R E V I E W

Friday, September 19, 1986

OVERVIEW

■ Consumer Price Index Up 0.3%

In July, a large part of the increase in the CPI was due to advances in food, housing and clothing prices.

■ Marriages and Divorces in 1985

A total of 184,096 marriages and 61,980 divorces were recorded in Canada in 1985.

■ Working Activity of Wives

The relationship between participation in the labour force by wives and their husbands' income has weakened considerably.

■ University Tuition Fees 1986-87

Tuition fees for undergraduate Arts and Science programs are lowest in Québec.

■ Farm Cash Receipts and Prices

Farm cash receipts for the first seven months of 1986 were estimated at \$11.7% billion, up 2.2% from 1985.

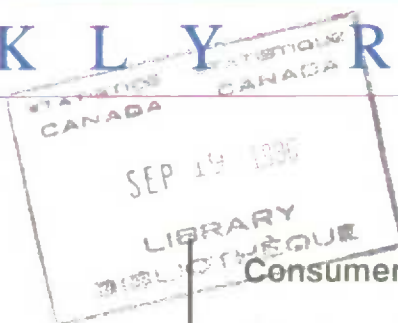
■ Help-wanted index Rise 2.2%

This index reached 94 in August, its highest level since October 1981.

■ Building Permits Increase

The month-over-month advance in June pushed the value of building permits over \$2.0 billion.

- This issue also includes an article on Department Store Sales.



Consumer Price Index Up 0.3%

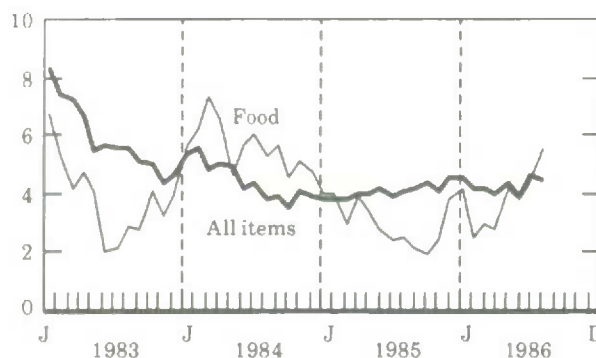
Following a rise of 0.8% in July, the Consumer Price Index advanced by 0.3% in August. A large part of this increase was due to advances in food (0.4%), housing (0.2%) and clothing (1.1%). Transportation was the only major component to decrease in August. The year-over-year increase in the CPI was 4.3%, up from 4.2% recorded in the 12-month period ending in July.

The advance in the food index (0.4%) was much lower than the 1.3% increase observed between June and July. Both food purchased from stores and food purchased from restaurants contributed to this increase. The index for food purchased from stores was up 0.4%, largely as a result of higher prices for meat products, fresh fruit and selected dairy products. Pork prices increased by 3.6% as they continued to reflect a cyclical shortage of hogs for slaughter in Canada and the United States.

(continued on page 2)

Consumer Price Index

(% change, previous year)



Statistics
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... Consumer Price Index

A large part of the advance in the housing index resulted from a significant rise in the index for rented accommodation. Higher rents in Québec were the main source of the increase for rented accommodation. Rising prices for new housing in urban centres in Ontario and Québec have also contributed substantially to the latest increase. Lower prices for furniture offset a small part of the upward movement.

The rise in the clothing index followed a decline of 0.3% in July. Most of the latest increase was concentrated in prices of women's suits, dresses and sportswear as well as men's pants, suits, sports jackets and footwear. A return to regular price levels from the "sales" prices reported previously and the introduction of some new fall selections were mainly responsible for the increase in August.

For further information, contact Prices Division (613) 990-9606.

Consumer Price Index

	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
	% change, previous month				
All-items	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.3
Food	1.1	0.8	0.2	1.3	0.4
All-items, excl. food	-0.1	0.4	0.1	0.6	0.3
Energy	-6.8	-2.4	-0.4	-0.2	-0.4
All-items, excl. energy	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.8	0.4
All-items, excl. food & energy	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.4

The all-items excluding food index rose by 0.3%, a noticeable slowdown from the increase of 0.6% reported in the previous month. The upward pressure on this index was moderated somewhat by a decline of 0.2% in the transportation index. Widespread gasoline "price wars" and discounts on selected new automobiles contributed significantly to this decrease.

Marriages and Divorces in 1985

A total of 184,096 marriages were recorded in Canada in 1985, a decline of 0.8% from the previous year. A downward trend has continued since 1972 when a record 200,470 marriages were recorded. The marriage rate has also declined from 9.2 per 1,000 population in 1972 to 7.3 in 1985, a decrease of about 20%. A decline in marriage rates was observed in all age groups during this period.

The decline in marriages since 1972 varies considerably from province to province. The largest percentage decrease was 42.7% in Newfoundland, followed by 37.1% in Québec. The smallest decreases were in Nova Scotia (-14.1%) and Manitoba (-16.1%).

A total of 61,980 divorces were recorded in Canada in 1985, down 4.9% from 1984. This decline marks a continuation of the trend observed since 1982 when a record number of divorces were reported. The divorce rate has declined from 286 per 100,000 population in 1982, to 244 in 1985. Although Canadian rates have increased significantly since 1969, they are still lower than those of the United States.

Recent changes in divorce legislation which came into effect on June 1, 1986 may affect the rate over the next several months. The period of separation required for divorce has been reduced from three years to one.

For further information, contact Health Division (613) 991-1771.

Work Activity of Wives

Historically, the labour force participation rate of wives has exhibited a very strong inverse relationship with the husband's money income. While it is still true that the higher the husband's income, the less likely it is that the wife will be in the labour force, this relationship has weakened considerably. In 1970, about 44% of wives whose husbands were under 65 years of age worked at some time during the year. The proportion who were working ranged from 25% among wives whose husband's income was \$45,000 or over, to 49% among wives whose husband's income was between \$10,000 and \$14,999. By 1980, not only had the overall proportion of working wives increased to 61%, but the range between the highest and lowest proportions had narrowed to 13 percentage points. The labour market behaviour of wives in higher income families was almost identical to these overall patterns.

The probability of having worked at some time during the year drops steadily over the life cycle. In the younger age groups, the proportions of working spouses of both sexes were very high, with those in the top income percentile showing only a slightly higher incidence of work. In the older age groups, the proportions of working husbands and wives among high income families were significantly higher than the average. In the case of all husband-wife families, 24.7% of husbands and 7% of wives 65 years of age and over worked in 1980. In high income families, 69% of husbands and 21% of wives worked when they were 65 or older.

This article is an excerpt from Labour Market Activities of High Income Families, a feature article in *The Labour Force, August 1986* (71-001). For further information, contact Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division (613) 991-6897.

University Tuition Fees, 1986-1987

For the 1986-1987 school year, percentage increases of tuition fees for undergraduate Arts and Science programs vary from 3% to 12%, with the majority falling between 4% and 8%. The average annual increase in the Consumer Price Index was 4% in 1985 and in the first seven months of 1986.

Tuition is lowest in Québec, where fees for these programs are \$500 to \$800. The range of fees in other regions are as follows: \$900 to \$1,200 in the Prairie provinces and Newfoundland; \$1,300 in Ontario; \$1,300 to \$1,600 in British Columbia; and \$1,400 to \$1,600 in the Maritimes.

Over the last ten years, tuition fees for undergraduate Arts and Science programs have more than doubled at most universities. The exceptions are

Québec institutions where fees have remained the same, Alberta universities where increases range from 70% to 85%, and institutions in British Columbia where fees have tripled at most universities. The Consumer Price Index has increased by about 110% over the same time period.

Tuition fees represented 16% of general operating income for Canadian universities in 1984-85. This proportion has increased since 1979-80 when it stood at 13%.

Universities in most provinces have differential tuition fees for foreign students. The exceptions are Newfoundland, Manitoba and specific institutions in other provinces. Foreign student fees vary from \$1,300-\$1,400 in Alberta to \$5,800 in Québec.

For further information, contact Education, Culture or Tourism Division (613) 991-1526.

Farm Cash Receipts and Prices

Farm cash receipts for the first seven months of 1986 were estimated at \$11.7 billion, an increase of 2.2% from the corresponding period of 1985. Receipts from the sale of field crops totalled \$5.4 billion, down 1.7% from 1985. The decrease was primarily due to lower Canadian Wheat Board payments, liquidations of deferred grain receipts, canola and corn receipts. The indexes of crop prices show that:

- The grain index dropped on a month-to-month basis in July as prices were generally lower for wheat, oats, barley, rye and corn. Prices received for wheat, oats and barley reflected a higher percentage of lower quality grades.
- Prices for flaxseed and canola/rapeseed decreased for the sixth consecutive month. The oilseeds index now stands at its lowest level since September 1977.

- Potato prices rose 46.9% in July to reach a level 19.9% above the 1985 average. Farm sales of new potatoes were the main reason for the sharp advance in potato prices.

Receipts from the sale of livestock from January to July 1986 were 0.4% higher than the same period a year earlier. The 4.1% increase in hog receipts was due to price increases which offset the year-to-date decline in marketings. Receipts from sales of cattle were down as prices and marketings declined. The indexes for livestock and animal prices show that:

- The hog index is now at its highest level since September 1982.
- Prices received for cattle have fluctuated since January with no clear trend evident.
- Dairy prices have generally been falling since January.

For further information, contact Agriculture/Natural Resources Division (613) 990-8706.

Help-wanted Index Rises 2.2%

- The seasonally adjusted Help-wanted index for Canada (1981 = 100) increased slightly in August to 94.
- This was its highest level since October 1981, when the index registered 96.
- The index for Ontario fell back to 120 in August after advancing to 129 in July.

- The index for Québec rose for the second consecutive month, advancing from 93 in July to 97 in August.
- In the Atlantic region the index jumped from 140 in July to 221 in August. (This index is based on help-wanted advertisements published in 18 metropolitan area newspapers. Large month-to-month variations in the Atlantic region are caused by special advertisements that are commonly found in the careers section of other newspapers.)

For further information, contact Labour Division (613) 990-9900.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM

SEPTEMBER 12 - 18

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Livestock Report - Pigs, July 1, 1986. Catalogue number 23-008 (Canada: \$15/\$60; Other Countries: \$16/\$64)

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS

Police Administration - Statistical Highlights, 1962-1985. Catalogue number 85-002 (Canada: \$2/\$10; Other Countries: \$3/\$15)

Policing in Canada, 1986. Catalogue number 85-523 (Canada: \$35; Other Countries: \$36.50)

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM

Tuition and Living Accommodation Costs at Canadian Universities, 1985-86 and 1986-87. Catalogue number 81-219 (Canada: \$15; Other Countries: \$16)

GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT

National Income and Expenditure Accounts, First Quarter 1986. Catalogue number 13-001 (Canada: \$15/\$60; Other Countries: \$16/\$64)

HEALTH

Annual Return of Hospitals - Hospital Indicators, 1983-84. Catalogue number 83-233 (Canada: \$35; Other Countries: \$45)

INDUSTRY

Agricultural Implements Industry, 1984. Catalogue number 42-202 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

Biscuit Industry, 1984. Catalogue number 32-202 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

Carpet Mat and Rug Industry, 1984. Catalogue number 34-221 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

Cement, July 1986. Catalogue number 44-001 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

Clay Products Industry, 1984. Catalogue number 44-218 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

Commercial Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Equipment Manufacturers, 1984. Catalogue number 42-215 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

Communications and Energy Wire and Cable Industry, 1984. Catalogue number 43-209 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

Flour and Breakfast Cereal Products Industry, 1984. Catalogue number 32-228 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

Oils and Fats, July 1986. Catalogue number 32-006 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

Production and Shipments of Blow-moulded Plastic Bottles, Quarter Ended June 30, 1986. Catalogue number 47-006 (Canada: \$5/\$20; Other Countries: \$6/\$24)

Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe, Tubing and Fittings, June 1986. Catalogue number 41-011 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, June 1986. Catalogue number 35-003 (Canada: \$6/\$60; Other Countries: \$7/\$70)

INDUSTRY - Concluded

Railroad Rolling Stock Industry, 1984. Catalogue number 42-211 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

Retail Chain and Department Stores, 1984. Catalogue number 63-210 (Canada: \$25; Other Countries: \$26)

Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances, July 1986. Catalogue number 43-003 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, August 1, 1986. Catalogue number 32-010 (Canada: \$8/\$80; Other Countries: \$9/\$90)

Wholesale Trade, June 1986. Catalogue number 63-008 (Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60)

INTERNATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS

Current Economic Indicators, Vol. 2, No. 8, September 1986. Catalogue number 13-005 (Canada: \$10/\$100; Other Countries: \$11/\$110)

International Travel - Advance Information, July 1986. Catalogue number 66-001P (Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60)

LABOUR

The Labour Force, August 1986. Catalogue number 71-001 (Canada: \$20/\$200; Other Countries: \$21.50/\$215)

Unemployment Insurance Statistics, June 1986. Catalogue number 73-001 (Canada: \$12/\$120; Other Countries: \$13/\$130)

PRICES

Consumer Price Index, August 1986. Catalogue number 62-001 (Canada: \$8/\$80; Other Countries: \$9/\$90)

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK

Federal Government Personnel Engaged in Scientific and Technological (S&T) Activities, 1978-79 to 1986-87. Catalogue number 88-001 (Canada: \$6/\$60; Other Countries: \$7/\$70)

Housing Starts and Completions, June 1985. Catalogue number 64-002 (Canada: \$15/\$150; Other Countries: \$16/\$160)

SERVICES

Broadcasting Statistics - Radio and Television (including CBC), 1985. Catalogue number 56-001 (Canada: \$6.50/\$39; Other Countries: \$7.50/\$45)

TRANSPORTATION

International Seaborne Shipping Statistics, 1985. Catalogue number 54-209 (Canada: \$74; Other Countries: \$75.50)

Railway Carloadings, July 1986. Catalogue number 52-001 (Canada: \$7.50/\$75; Other Countries: \$8.50/\$85)

Road Motor Vehicles - Fuel Sales, 1985. Catalogue number 53-218 (Canada: \$10; Other Countries: \$11)

Building Permits Increase

The seasonally adjusted value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities increased by 3.0% in June. Following a decrease in May, the month-over-month advance in June pushed the value over \$2.0 billion. Both the residential and non-residential sectors contributed to this increase. Compared to June 1985, the value of building permits was up by 18.8%.

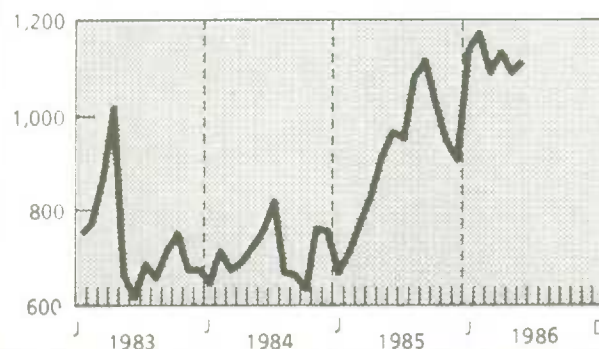
The value of residential permits rose 1.7%, to \$1.1 billion. An increase in the value of permits for single family dwellings offset a decline for multi-family dwellings. The number of units approved was up slightly from 16,734 in May, to 16,807 in June. Approvals were significantly higher in British Columbia and the Prairie provinces.

Building Permits

	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
	% change, previous month				
Residential	3.1	-6.8	3.3	-3.8	1.7
Non-residential	14.7	15.1	-3.9	1.8	4.8
Total	7.4	1.9	0.1	-1.0	3.0

Residential Construction Permits

(millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted)



Non-residential projects were up 4.8%, to \$899 million. The commercial (12.0%) and industrial (3.6%) components were responsible for this rise. The institutional and government component was down steeply (-8.5%) in June.

For further information, contact Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division (613) 990-9689.

Department Store Sales By Province and Metropolitan Area in July

Department stores in Canada reported sales totalling \$928 million in July, up 5.9% over July 1985.

Department Store Sales By Province

Province	Millions of dollars	% change, previous year
Newfoundland	10.9	1.1
Prince Edward Island	6.2	-6.0
Nova Scotia	29.0	0.1
New Brunswick	19.5	3.6
Québec	173.5	5.2
Ontario	348.3	8.0
Manitoba	45.1	-0.6
Saskatchewan	28.1	-0.8
Alberta	119.8	3.9
British Columbia	147.2	9.9

Department Store Sales By Metropolitan Area

Metropolitan Area	Millions of dollars	% change, previous year
Calgary	46.0	3.6
Edmonton	53.6	4.4
Halifax-Dartmouth	16.2	1.2
Hamilton	25.9	9.3
Montréal	99.0	5.5
Ottawa-Hull	39.5	2.7
Québec	24.6	2.6
Toronto	142.6	14.4
Vancouver	88.0	13.1
Winnipeg	40.3	-1.9

For further information, contact Industry Division (613) 991-3551.



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LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	June	429.86	427.58	2.4
Labour Income (\$ million)	June	22,721	22,202	4.9
Persons with Jobs (million)	Aug.	12.08	12.06	2.1
Unemployed	Aug.	1,201,000	1,231,000	-4.2
INVENTORIES				
Department Store (\$ million)	June	3,644	4,373	13.3
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	June	33,997	34,230	-0.1
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	June	21,501	21,759	1.1
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	June	24,594	24,845	1.6
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1981 = 100)	July	132.9	131.9	4.2
New House Price Index (1981 = 100)	July	103.9	103.2	8.3
Raw Materials Price Index (1981 = 100)	July	91.0	92.4	-21.1
Excl. coal, crude oil, natural gas	July	104.5	102.9	5.3
Industrial Product Price Index (1981 = 100)	July	118.9	118.8	0.3
CONSTRUCTION				
			Year-to-date	
Building Permits (\$ million)	June*	2,095	11,629	29.2
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	July*	15,643	93,624	27.6
ENERGY				
Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	June	4,781	29,549	-5.5
Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)	June	32,724	230,333	2.6
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	May*	7,776	45,956	-4.3
Petroleum Refining (thousand cubic metres)	July*	7,984	48,498	-0.5
FOREIGN TRADE				
Exports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	July	9,159	70,138	1.4
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	July	9,805	66,234	11.4
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	July	928	6,286	7.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	June	21,751	126,362	5.1
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	July	1,970	13,241	12.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	June	11,758	65,484	8.1

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* new this week.

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