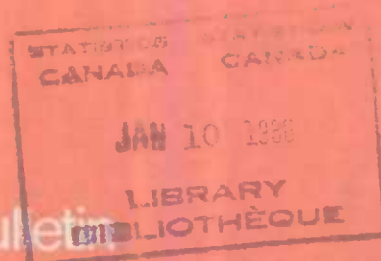



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Weekly Bulletin



January 10, 1986

Department Store Sales

Department stores in Canada reported sales totalling \$1,360.2 million in November 1985, an increase of 8.4% from a year earlier. Cumulative sales for the period January to November 1985 totalled \$10,221.3 million, up 5.7% from the same period in 1984.

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

- Atlantic Provinces, \$104.8 million (6.9%);
- Quebec, \$246.2 million (7.0%);
- Ontario, \$532.6 million (12.7%);
- Manitoba, \$66.5 million (1.0%);
- Saskatchewan, \$43.5 million (5.6%);
- Alberta, \$173.1 million (9.0%);
- British Columbia, \$193.5 million (4.7%).

Order the November 1985 issue of Department Store Sales by Regions (63-004, \$4/\$40), or contact Lina Di Piètro (613-991-3551), Industry Division.

Help-wanted Index

The revised seasonally adjusted Help-wanted index (1981=100) for Canada increased 1.2% between November and December 1985 to 85 from 84. By region, the index advanced 1.4% in the Atlantic Provinces (to 216 from 213), 6.0% in Quebec (to 88 from 83) and 15.4% in the Prairie Provinces (to 45 from 39). The index remained unchanged at 39 in British Columbia and it declined 1.0% in Ontario (to 95 from 96).

For the fourth quarter of 1985, the three-month average of the seasonally adjusted Canada index advanced to 83 from 76 or by 9.2% as compared with the previous quarter. Except for the Prairie Provinces where the average remained at the same level, advances were registered in all regions, ranging from 2.2% in Ontario to 15.2% in British Columbia.

The 1985 average of the Canada Help-wanted index increased 25.9% over 1984 to 73 from 58. The 1985 annual averages advanced in all regions over the previous year: to 173 from 138 in the Atlantic Provinces (25.4%), to 77 from 64 in Quebec (20.3%), to 87 from 63 in Ontario (38.1%), to 41 from 34 in the Prairie Provinces (20.6%) and to 32 from 29 in British Columbia (10.3%).

Order the December 1985 issue of the Help-wanted Index (71-003, \$2.50/\$25).

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Oct.*	425.12	424.31	4.1
Labour Income (\$ million)	Sept.	21,393.7	21,089.6	7.2
Persons with Jobs (million)	Nov.	11.43	11.48	3.4
Unemployed	Nov.	1,246,000	1,200,000	-8.0

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Oct.	4,288.7	3,392.8	10.9
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Oct.	34,105.5	34,109.8	3.0

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Oct.	21,799.1	20,990.8	7.0
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Oct.	22,384.1	22,575.5	1.1

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981 = 100)	Nov.	128.9	128.4	4.0
New House Price Index (1981 = 100)	Oct.	97.3	96.9	2.6
Raw Materials Price Index (1977 = 100)	Nov.*	217.1	216.1	2.0
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Nov.*	156.6	155.2	0.1
Industry Selling Price Index (1971 = 100)	Nov.*	321.1	320.5	2.4

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Oct.*	1,878.6	16,215.3	25.9
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	Oct.	13,697	112,740	20.7

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Sept.	4 780	45 290	8.6
Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)	Oct.*	36 138	361 884	4.5
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Sept.	6 826	69 064	8.3
Petroleum Refining (thousand cubic metres)	Oct.	7 287	70 985	-2.3

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Oct.	11,146	99,456	6.9
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Oct.	9,126	84,987	10.6

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Oct.	22.8	199.4	-0.9
Steel (ingots - thousand tonnes)	Oct.	1 280	12 109	-1.3

SALES

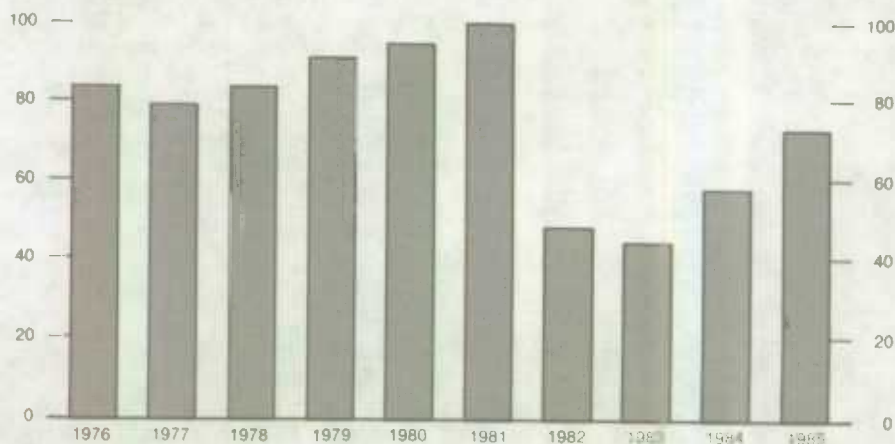
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	1,032.3	8,861.1	5.3
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Oct.	21,990.5	201,843.0	7.2
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	1,884.2	16,740.4	25.5
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	11,101.6	103,301.0	10.4

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* - new this week.

Help-wanted Index, Canada

(1981=100)



Source: Statistics Canada, Daily Bulletin (11-001E)

Building Permits

The seasonally adjusted value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities in October 1985 slipped 4.3% to \$1,747.4 million from \$1,825.5 million in September. The drop in building intentions resulted from a slackening in the residential sector that more than offset a rise in the non-residential sector. However, the value of permits issued in the first 10 months of 1985 has already exceeded the total for the year 1984. If this pace continues for the balance of the year, the 1985 total will surpass \$19 billion, an increase of more than 20% from 1984.

After two consecutive increases, the seasonally adjusted value of residential building permits fell 12.8% from the previous month to \$978.0 million in October. In spite of a moderate drop, permits for single-family dwellings remained at a high level while a substantial decrease was recorded for permits for multi-family dwellings. On a seasonally adjusted basis, 15,759 units were approved in October (9,458 single detached and 6,301 multiple dwellings), down 14.9% from the 18,514 units authorized in September (10,429 single detached and 8,085 multiple dwellings). Translated into annual terms, these approvals represented 189,100 in October and 222,220 units in September. Declines for residential construction permits were recorded in all regions except British Columbia.

The seasonally adjusted value of non-residential projects in October jumped 9.2% to \$769.4 million. The value of construction in the industrial sector more than doubled (+103.2%) from September. This impressive increase reflected a major project of \$91 million – a titanium plant located in Tracy, Quebec. Meanwhile, activity in the commercial sector (+7.2%) continued to advance while a substantial decline was registered in the public sector (-27.4%).

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

Farm Wages

At November 15, 1985, the average hourly wage, without board, lodging, or house provided, was estimated to be \$5.42, up 4.2% compared to \$5.20 at November 15, 1984. The highest average wage, \$6.27 per hour, was paid in Saskatchewan, while the lowest, \$4.80, was paid in Quebec.

Average daily wages, without board, were estimated at \$44.71 and monthly wages without board, at \$997.00.

Following is a provincial breakdown of average wages of farm help (per hour, without board):

• Maritimes (P.E.I., N.S., N.B.)	\$4.83
• Quebec	\$4.80
• Ontario	\$5.20
• Manitoba	\$5.89
• Saskatchewan	\$6.27
• Alberta	\$5.77
• British Columbia	\$6.20
• Canada	\$5.42

Order **Farm Wages in Canada** (21-002, \$7/\$28), or contact George Beelen (613-990-8706), Agriculture and Natural Resources Division.

Exports of Newsprint Paper



Housing Starts

Housing starts for all areas in November reached, for the second time this year, a peak level of 197,000 units, seasonally adjusted on an annual basis. Construction activity was brisk in both single and multiple dwelling sectors.

Order the November 1985 issue of **Housing Starts and Completions** (64-002, \$15/\$150), or contact P. Pichette (613-990-9689).

Farm Prices of Agricultural Products

The November 1985 estimate of the index of farm prices of agricultural products for Canada is 283.4 (1971=100), 0.1% more than the October 1985 index of 283.3 but 5.0% less than the November 1984 level of 298.4.

The 0.1% increase in the overall index from October 1985 to November 1985 reflected a 1.0% increase in the livestock and livestock products sub-index and a 1.6% decrease in the total crops.

Cattle and hog prices continued their recent increase to contribute to the higher livestock and livestock products sub-index. Poultry and egg prices decreased marginally in November.

The decrease in the total crops sub-index was due to decreases in the grains and oil-seeds sub-indexes and a drop in potato prices.

Provincially, the indexes in Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario were higher in November than October while all other provinces had lower indexes:

• Prince Edward Island	-2.4%;
• Nova Scotia	0.3%;
• New Brunswick	-0.7%;
• Quebec	0.7%;
• Ontario	1.2%;
• Manitoba	-1.3%;
• Saskatchewan	-1.0%;
• Alberta	-0.3%;
• British Columbia	-0.3%.

Order the November 1985 issue of **Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products** (62-003, \$6/\$60), or contact Paul Murray (613-990-8706).

Labour Income

Labour income for the month of October 1985 was estimated at \$21,385.2 million, an increase of \$1,478.4 million or 7.4% from October 1984.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries increased by \$81.0 million between September 1985 and October 1985 to \$18,915.7 million.

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

Railway Carloadings

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada totalled 20.1 million tonnes in November 1985, a decrease of 7.4% from the previous year. The carriers received an additional 1.1 million tonnes from the United States, an increase of 0.9% from November 1984.

Commodities registering notable changes in volume loaded for the latest month were: wheat (-13.4%); coal (-7.5%); potash (-22.9%) and sulphur (-37.1%).

Total loadings in Canada for 1985 to date showed a decrease of 1.5% from the 1984 period, while receipts from United States connections decreased by 5.1%.

Order the November 1985 issue of **Railway Carloadings** (52-001, \$7.50/\$75), or contact the Rail Unit (613-990-8700), Transportation Division.

Railway Transport

Total operating revenue of railways operating in Canada amounted to \$7,639.6 million in 1984 while operating expenses for the same period amounted to \$6,947.9 million.

The number of persons engaged in Canadian rail operations averaged 93,611 with an average hourly wage of \$14.44.

Order the 1984 issue of **Railway Transport in Canada: General Statistics** (52-215, \$32), or contact the Rail Unit (613-990-8693), Transportation Division.

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Weekly Bulletin

Published by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613-991-1103)

Editor: Rachelle Pilon (613-991-1107)

R.H. Coats Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario 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, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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Industry Selling Price Index

Preliminary estimates show the Industry Selling Price Index (ISPI) for manufacturing (1971=100) stood at 321.1 in November 1985, up 0.2% from the revised level of 320.5 for October. With this increase, the year-over-year advance, calculated by comparing the level for November 1985 with the level for November 1984, was 2.4%, a rate comparable with those recorded since April 1985. The 0.2% change for the month was primarily due to upturns in the food and beverage industry (0.7%), the tobacco products industry (2.8%) and the petroleum and coal products industry (0.5%). Declines in the wood (-1.0%) and primary metals (-0.9%) industries had a moderating effect on the overall index.

The food and beverage industry index climbed 0.7% in November, up 2.3% from a year earlier. The monthly rise stemmed chiefly from increases of 2.1% in the slaughtering and meat processors index, 4.3% in the fish products index and 2.8% in the cane and beet sugar processors index. Price increases of 2.4% for fresh or frozen beef, 4.4% for fresh or frozen pork and 7.6% for smoked ham, cooked and ready to serve, were major factors in the advance of the slaughtering and meat processors index for the month.

Most of the monthly upswing in the fish products index was attributable to price increases of 7.9% for fresh water fish and 9.1% on average for fresh and frozen fillets and frozen blocks of fish.

The tobacco products index jumped 2.8% in November to a level 8.2% higher than in November 1984. The monthly advance was due exclusively to a 3.6% rise in the tobacco products manufacturers index, which in turn resulted from an average price increase of 3.5% for the various kinds of cigarettes.

According to preliminary estimates, the petroleum and coal products index gained 0.5% in November, primarily as a result of an increase in gasoline prices. The year-over-year advance was estimated at 3.3%.

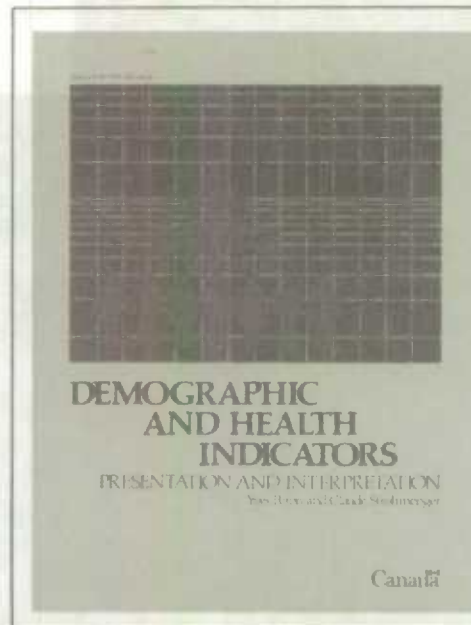
The wood industry index fell 1.0% in November, but remained 5.2% higher than in November 1984. The main stimulus in the monthly decline was a 1.8% drop in the sawmills and planing mills index. Most of this decrease was due to price cuts of 10.3% for cedar and 3.2% for Douglas fir, partly offset by a 1.8% rise in hemlock prices.

The primary metals index fell back 0.9% in November, down 1.1% from a year earlier. A 2.9% decline in the smelting and refining index, partly attributable to a 13.5% slump in zinc prices, was responsible for most of the monthly decrease in the group index.

The proportion of industry indexes that posted declines dropped appreciably, to 16.5% in November 1985 from an average 26.1% for the previous six months.

The proportion of indexes showing no change (37.0%) was well above the average for the previous six months (25.2%). The percentage of indexes that registered increases (46.5%) was slightly lower than the average for the preceding six months (48.7%).

Order the November 1985 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$15/\$150), or contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-990-9606/7), Prices Division.



Demographic and Health Indicators

This new publication presents more than 40 of the most frequently used indicators in the fields of health care and population studies. Each indicator is accompanied by a clear explanation of its calculation and interpretation, along with examples of its application to recent Canadian data.

This report will be a valuable working tool for analysts, researchers and students in the areas of demography, public health and epidemiology, and for other users of population and health statistics.

Order *Demographic and Health Indicators: Presentation and Interpretation* (82-543E, \$30), or contact Owen Adams (613-991-1631), Health Division.

Raw Materials Price Index

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1977=100) stood at a preliminary level of 217.1 in November 1985, up 0.5% from the revised October level of 216.1. Compared to November 1984 the RMPI dropped 2.0%. The Raw Materials Price Index excluding coal, crude oil and natural gas increased 0.9% over the month but only 0.1% on a year-over-year basis. Of the eight components making up the Raw Materials Price Index, five showed increases between October and November, two registered decreases and one remained unchanged. The most significant decrease in November was noted by the non-ferrous metals component which was down 1.4% while the largest increases were posted by the vegetable products component, up 1.8% and the animal and animal products component, up 1.7%.

To understand the 2% decline in the RMPI on an annual basis, it is necessary to look at what happened in November 1984. An increase in the petroleum compensation charge had resulted in an 8% climb in crude oil prices at that time. This in turn was mainly responsible for the 4.2% increase in the all-items Raw Materials Price Index in November 1984. Since then the coal, crude oil and natural gas component index has registered a number of significant decreases on a monthly basis and a few moderate increases, so that in November 1985 the index was up 0.1% over the month but down 3.7% from its year-earlier level.

The non-ferrous metals component index was 1.4% lower in November than in October to stand at a level 6.7% below its year-earlier level. Zinc prices, down 11.1% in November, accounted for about half the monthly movement.

The vegetable products component index level increased 1.8% over the month, but still remained 7.1% below its November 1984 index level.

Order the November 1985 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$15/\$150), or contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-990-9606/7), Prices Division.

Employment, Earnings and Hours

Preliminary data for October 1985 showed an estimated 9,201.8 thousand employees at the Canada industrial aggregate level, an increase of 18.0 thousand from September. While employment in most industries remained virtually unchanged from the previous month, there was an increase in community, business and personal services and a decrease in manufacturing. Employment increased or remained unchanged in all provinces and territories except Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories which declined.

Average weekly earnings at the Canada industrial aggregate level increased from \$424.31 in September to \$425.12 in October. Increases were noted in forestry and manufacturing while all other industries showed little or no change.

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

Electric Power Statistics

The net generation of electricity in Canada in October 1985 increased by 2.4% to 36 138 gigawatt hours from 35 291 gigawatt hours a year earlier. Exports of electric power decreased 11.6% to 3 563 gigawatt hours from 4 031 gigawatt hours while imports increased by 54.6% to 218 gigawatt hours from the October 1984 level of 141 gigawatt hours.

During 1985 to date, the net generation of electricity totalled 361 884 gigawatt hours, up 4.5% from the January-October 1984 level of 346 256 gigawatt hours. Exports of electricity rose 4.0% to 36 330 gigawatt hours from 34 921 gigawatt hours and imports rose 16.3% to 2 334 gigawatt hours from 2 007 gigawatt hours.

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



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The Dairy Review, October 1985	23-001	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM			
Canadian Travel Survey, 1984	87-504	\$32	\$33
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Hospital Statistics: Preliminary Annual Report, 1984-85	83-217	\$20	\$21
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Electric Power Statistics, Vol. I, Annual Electric Power Survey of Capability and Load, 1984 actual and 1985-1994 forecast	57-204	\$20	\$21
Electric Power Statistics, Vol. III, Inventory of Prime Mover and Electric Generating Equipment as of December 31, 1984	57-206	\$20	\$21
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Housing Starts and Completions, October 1985	64-002	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
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Air Passenger Origin and Destination - Canada/United States Report, 1984	51-205	\$74	\$87
Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics, October 1985	53-003	\$6.50/\$65	\$7.50/\$75
Railway Carloadings, 9-day period ending November 30, 1985	52-005	\$75	\$100
Railway Carloadings, 7-day period ending December 7, 1985	52-005	\$75	\$100
Railway Operating Statistics, July 1985	52-003	\$9.50/\$95	\$10.50/\$105

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