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Weekly Bulletin



January 17, 1986

International Trade

Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canada's exports declined to a level of \$10.0 billion in November 1985, down a sharp 8.4% from a record \$10.9 billion attained in October. This decrease followed three consecutive monthly increases.

In contrast, November imports rose strongly by 8.9% or \$781 million to a record level of \$9.5 billion. The increase was concentrated in the automotive sector.

The net effect was a decline in the merchandise trade surplus to \$500 million from \$2.2 billion in October.

The short-term trend rate of growth for exports, which provides a better measure of month-to-month movements in trade, slowed substantially - to less than 2.0% in the current period from over 4.0% in August and September. The slowdown reflects a moderation in the automotive sector from rates greater than 7.0% in August and September to less than 2.0%. The trends for machinery as well as forestry, energy, (continued on page 2, col. 3)

Labour Force Survey

Estimates from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey for December 1985 indicate continued improvements in labour market conditions. The seasonally adjusted level of employment maintained the upward trend noted since the beginning of the year, rising by 34,000 over the November estimate. Unemployment declined by 26,000, on a seasonally adjusted basis. These two factors combined to lower the unemployment rate to 10.0, a decrease of 0.2 from the previous month.

Employment

The seasonally adjusted level of employment for the week ending December 14, 1985 was an estimated 11,503,000 - an increase of 34,000 over November. Employment rose by 20,000 to 9,090,000 for persons aged 25 and over, of which 14,000 was attributed to females in this age group. Employment increased by 14,000 to 2,413,000 for persons aged 15 to 24. It rose by 19,000 for young men while there was a decline of 5,000 among young women.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of full-time employment rose by 37,000 to 9,731,000 in December, with increases of 21,000 among females and of 16,000 for males. Part-time employment was little changed at 1,780,000.

(continued on page 2, col. 1)

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings(\$)	Oct.	425.12	424.31	4.1
Labour Income (\$ million)	Oct.*	21,385.2	21,401.5	7.4
Persons with Jobs (million)	Dec.*	11.34	11.43	3.4
Unemployed	Dec.*	1,238,000	1,246,000	-5.9

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)	Nov.*	97.8	97.3	3.5
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)	Nov.*	14,326	127,066	24.5

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Oct.*	5 392	50 743	7.5
Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)	Oct.	36 138	361 884	4.5
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Sept.	6 826	69 084	8.3
Petroleum Refining (thousand cubic metres)	Oct.	7 287	70 985	-2.3

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Nov.*	10,367	110,160	6.8
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Nov.*	9,255	95,089	12.5

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Nov.*	20.1	219.5	-1.5
Steel (ingots - thousand tonnes)	Nov.*	1 228	13 353	-0.8

SALES

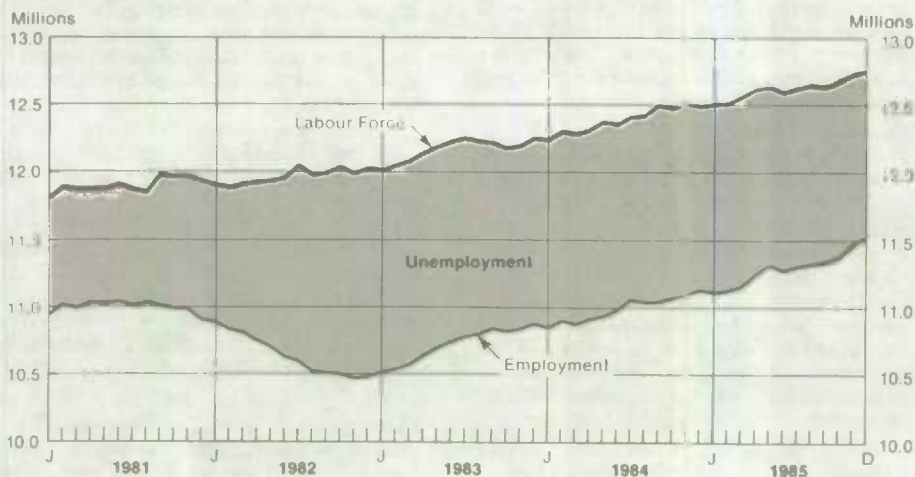
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Nov.*	1,360.2	10,221.3	5.7
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Oct.	21,990.5	201,843.0	7.2
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Nov.*	1,696.4	18,436.8	26.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	11,101.6	103,301.0	10.4

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* - new this week.

The Labour Force

(Seasonally Adjusted)



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

Canada

... Labour Force Survey

Employment increased in the finance, insurance and real estate (+19,000), manufacturing (+18,000) and construction (+12,000) industries. It declined in the services (-22,000) and primary industries other than agriculture (-4,000) while there was little change in the remaining sectors.

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployment for December 1985 declined by 26,000, to 1,279,000. Among those aged 25 and over, unemployment was an estimated 824,000 - a decrease of 16,000 from November. There were declines of 9,000 for females and of 7,000 for males in this age group, to 375,000 and 449,000, respectively. Unemployment decreased by 10,000 to 455,000 for persons aged 15 to 24, primarily as the result of a decline of 8,000 in the level for young males.

The estimated level of unemployment declined in British Columbia (-5,000) and in Nova Scotia (-3,000). There was an increase in unemployment in Newfoundland of 3,000.

Unemployment Rate

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 1985 declined slightly, by 0.2 to 10.0. As the result of a 0.6 decline in the rate among young males, the unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 24 decreased by 0.3 to 15.9. The rate eased 0.2 to 8.3 for those aged 25 and over.

The unemployment rate declined by 0.6 to 14.7 in Prince Edward Island, by 0.7 to 12.8 in Nova Scotia, by 0.2 to 15.0 in New Brunswick, by 0.1 to 11.7 in Quebec, by 0.2 to 7.4 in Manitoba, by 0.2 to 9.4 in Alberta and by 0.4 to 14.1 in British Columbia. The rate rose by 1.2 to 20.8 in Newfoundland and by 0.3 to 8.2 in Saskatchewan while it remained unchanged at 7.4 in Ontario.

Participation Rate

The seasonally adjusted participation rate for December 1985 declined slightly (-0.1) to 65.6. Among persons aged 25 and over, the participation rate was 64.9, a decrease of 0.1 from the previous month. The rate was 68.2 for those aged 15 to 24, an increase of 0.2. There was an increase of 0.6 for young males and a decline of 0.2 for young females.

Employment/Population Ratio

The seasonally adjusted employment/population ratio rose by 0.1 to 59.1 in December 1985. It increased by 0.4 to 57.4 for persons aged 15 to 24, mainly as the result of an increase of 1.0 for young men. The employment/population ratio remained unchanged at 59.5 for persons aged 25 and over.

Unadjusted Data

The unadjusted estimate of employment for December 1985 was 11,339,000, an increase of 372,000 (+3.4%) above that of the previous year. The unemployment level was an estimated 1,238,000, a decline of 78,000 (-5.9%) from December 1984. The unemployment rate fell 0.9 from that of a year ago, to 9.8. The participation rate was 64.6 in December, 0.8 above the rate of the same month a year ago. The employment/population ratio was an estimated 58.2, an increase of 1.2 over the ratio of last year.

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

Infomat

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International Travel

During November 1985, preliminary statistics indicate an estimated 1.9 million visits to Canada by United States residents, an increase of 0.6% from the same month in 1984. Visits by residents of other countries declined by 3.8% to 78,900 in November. The number of Canadian re-entries following visits to the United States totalled 2.6 million, up 0.6% from November 1984 figures. Visits by Canadian residents returning from all other countries increased by 14.5% to 124,700.

In the first 11 months of 1985, total international travel flows were as follows: 32.3 million trips by United States residents to Canada, a rise of 3.8% compared with the same period in 1984; visits by residents from other countries decreased by 4.3% to 1.7 million; visits by Canadian residents returning from the United States increased by 2.2% to 35.0 million, while trips by residents returning from other countries numbered 2.2 million, an advance of 15.1% from 1984.

Estimation of Tourists

Preliminary data show that long-term tourist entries (by auto and bus for one night or longer and all entries by boat, plane and train) from the United States increased by 6.3% to 503,200 in November 1985, the highest November level in a decade.

Visits by residents of other countries - excluding those arriving by land via the United States and intending to stay less than 24 hours - numbered 72,600 in November 1985, a decline of 3.0% from the same period a year earlier. Canadian tourist re-entries from the United States numbered 617,300 in November, down 3.5%, while trips by residents returning from countries other than the United States increased by 14.5% to 124,700.

Order the November 1985 issue of *International Travel - Advance Information* (66-001P, \$5/\$50), or contact Paul L. Paradis (613-990-8933), International Travel Section, International and Financial Economics Division.

... International Trade

agricultural and fish products showed similar patterns - relative strength in the last two months of the third quarter, followed by weakness in the current period. The rate of growth for industrial goods and materials has displayed continuing weakness since registering rates over 4.0% in January-February.

The short-term trend rate of growth in imports has been positive for 12 consecutive months with an average monthly increase of 1.5% for the period. The trend for automotive products has shown strength since May, when it first recovered from declines of more than 3.0% in February and March of this year. The short-term trends for industrial goods and materials, machinery and consumer goods have shown moderate strength throughout the year. The trend for agricultural and fish products declined in the current period. Energy products recovered strongly (+10.4%) following average monthly declines of more than 13.5% in the third quarter of 1985.

Commodity Analysis

The decline in November exports was widespread among all stages of fabrication. In crude materials, the most notable decline was recorded by coal (-68%), following an increase of 75% the previous month. Declines in aluminum, precious metals and petroleum were the major contributors to a turnaround of \$210 million in fabricated materials. A drop of \$328 million in end products was mainly concentrated in motor vehicles, which fell 13.1% following a decline of 2.3% in October. The declines reflected weak sales in the United States.

In direct contrast to the widespread declines in exports, the increase in November imports was concentrated in the automotive sector. Imports of automobiles posted an increase of 21.2%, while automotive parts rose 18.8%. Imports of trucks registered a more modest rise of 7.8%.

Trading Partner Analysis

Canadian exports to almost all country groupings registered declines. The exception was "Other OECD" countries, for which there was a small increase. Almost half of the total decline was attributable to the United States, and most of that in motor vehicles.

Order the November 1985 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$15/\$150), or contact G. Blaney (613-990-9647), Trade Information Unit, International Trade Division.

Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics

In November 1985, 67 Canadian urban transit systems collected 127,843,267 initial passenger fares. Operating revenues amounted to \$73,107,488.

During the same period, 16 passenger bus carriers earning \$500,000 or more annually from intercity and rural bus operations carried 1,655,163 fare passengers and earned \$15,593,605 in operating revenues.

Order the November 1985 issue of *Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics* (53-003, \$6.50/\$65), or contact Yvan Deslauriers (613-990-8700).

New Motor Vehicle Sales

Unadjusted Sales

Sales of all new motor vehicles totalled 126,132 units in November 1985, up 26.2% from November 1984. Sales of vehicles manufactured in North America increased to 90,128 units, 22.5% higher than in the same month a year ago. Sales of imported vehicles totalled 36,004 units, up by 36.7% from the year-ago level.

The total dollar value of new motor vehicles sold in Canada in November 1985 was \$1,696.4 million, a growth of 33.9% over November 1984. North American vehicles totalled \$1,239.8 million, up 32.3%. Sales of imported vehicles totalled \$456.6 million, representing an increase of 38.6% over the same month a year ago.

All provinces registered higher total unit sales than in November 1984. The gains ranged from 32.2% for British Columbia (including the Yukon and Northwest Territories) to 9.9% for Newfoundland.

Total new motor vehicle sales for the period January to November 1985 reached 1,426,234 units for a total value of \$18,436.8 million, representing increases over 1984 of 18.8% and 26.2% respectively. Total sales of passenger cars reached 1,064,679 units, a gain of 16.9% over the same period a year ago. The total dollar value of these sales reached \$12,781.0 million, up by 22.6% from 1984.

Order the November 1985 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007, \$8/\$80), or contact Maurice Massaad (613-990-9682), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

Farm Cash Receipts

Farm cash receipts for the period January-November 1985 were at a level of \$18,310.8 million, down 2.3% compared to the January-November 1984 level of \$18,738.5 million.

Receipts from the sale of field crops totalled \$8,763.2 million, a decrease of 5.3% from last year's \$9,254.1 million. Western Grain Stabilization payments totalling \$522.0 million, made in April and November of 1985 and higher crop insurance and Canadian Wheat Board participation payments only partly offset large declines in wheat (-31.5%) and barley (-25.1%) receipts. January-November 1985 deliveries were down 28.5% for wheat and 29.9% for barley - higher barley prices partly offset the lower sales.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products decreased 0.5% to \$8,866.4 million from the 1984 figure of \$8,909.4 million. Hog sales were up 2.5% over the period, however, prices for hogs during the first 11 months averaged 6.6% lower than in the corresponding period last year and as a result hog cash receipts decreased 4.3%. Cattle receipts were virtually unchanged compared to the same period one year ago while poultry receipts registered an increase of 1.2% due to higher sales.

Other cash receipts rose to \$681.3 million from the year-earlier total of \$575.0 million.

Order the January-November 1985 issue of *Farm Cash Receipts* (21-001, \$7/\$70), or contact Lambert Gauthier or Steven Danford (613-990-8706), Agriculture and Natural Resources Division.



New Housing Price Index

The New Housing Price Index (1981=100) for Canada stood at 97.8 in November 1985, up 0.5% from its October level of 97.3, continuing the upward trend which has been evident for the last five months. This index of Canadian housing contractors' selling prices now stands 3.5% higher than the year-earlier level of 94.5. Between October 1985 and November 1985, the estimated house only index increased 0.6% to 100.7, while the estimated land only index increased 0.2% to 93.3.

Between October 1985 and November 1985 the largest increases in the price index were noted for Windsor (1.8%), Kitchener (1.6%), Halifax (1.5%) and Hamilton (1.2%). Monthly increases were also noted for Toronto (0.9%), Quebec City (0.6%), London (0.6%), Calgary (0.5%), Saskatoon (0.4%), Vancouver (0.3%), Edmonton (0.2%) and Saint John - Moncton (0.1%). Montreal reported a slight monthly decrease of 0.1%.

Contractors' selling prices continued to exhibit large 12-month increases in some Southern Ontario cities: Kitchener (15.2%), St. Catharines - Niagara (10.7%), Windsor (9.2%), Hamilton (7.4%) and London (6.4%), reflecting increased demand for new houses coupled with the shortages of some materials and skilled tradesmen. Significant increases were also recorded in Calgary (6.5%), Winnipeg (6.5%), Quebec City (6.2%), Saint John - Moncton (6.0%) and Halifax (5.5%).

Order the fourth quarter 1985 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), or contact the Prices Division (613-990-9601).

Coal Statistics

Canadian production of coal totalled 5 392 kilotonnes in October 1985, down 1.6% from 5 479 kilotonnes a year earlier. Exports of coal increased 23.7% to 2 942 kilotonnes from 2 379 kilotonnes while imports of 1 619 kilotonnes were reported.

Order the October 1985 issue of *Coal and Coke Statistics* (45-002, \$8/\$80), or contact Dave Madsen (613-990-9823), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Domestic Travel, 1984

Coast-to-coast, travellers completed a total of 96.8 million person-trips, down 5% compared to two years earlier. This drop was less than the 8% decline that occurred between 1980 and 1982. Tourist travel dropped by 3.5 million person-trips (5%); at the same time, excursionist travel declined by 1.3 million person-trips (4%). Spending on goods and services while on a trip totalled \$11.5 billion, up 4% from two years earlier.

Order the 1984 issue of *Canadian Travel Survey*, (87-504, \$32), or contact the Education, Culture and Tourism Division at 613-990-9169.

Construction Building Material Price Indexes

Residential

The price index for residential construction building materials (1981=100) declined to 121.9 in November, down 0.1% from its October level of 122.0. This index now stands 5.4% higher than its year-ago level of 115.6.

Between October and November 1985, increases were noted in two of the four component indexes: architectural materials (0.2%) and mechanical materials (0.1%), while electrical materials remained unchanged and structural materials declined by 1.0%. The change in the total index was mainly attributable to a price decrease in lumber which more than offset other price increases - principally concrete bricks and blocks and ready-mix concrete.

Between November 1984 and November 1985, the largest year-over-year price increase was recorded for architectural materials (6.2%), followed by mechanical materials (5.0%), structural materials (4.2%) and electrical materials (0.8%).

Non-residential

The non-residential construction building material price index (1981=100) rose to 121.4 in November, up 0.6% from its October level of 120.7. This index of non-residential building material prices now stands 4.7% higher than its year-ago level of 116.0.

Between October and November 1985, increases were reported for structural materials (1.0%), architectural materials (0.6%) and electrical materials (0.1%). The rise in the total index was mainly attributed to price increases for colorless plate and sheet glass, ready-mix concrete and concrete bricks and blocks, which more than offset a price decrease for lumber.

Between November 1984 and November 1985, mechanical materials increased 6.3%, followed by architectural materials (5.5%), structural materials (3.5%) and electrical materials (1.5%).

Order the fourth quarter 1985 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), or contact the Information Service (613-990-9606/7), Prices Division.



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Farm Wages in Canada, November 1985	21-002	\$7/\$28	\$8/\$32
Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry, October 1985	23-003	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, December 1985	32-012	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
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Labour Force Information, December 1985	71-001P	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
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Retail Trade, October 1985	63-005	\$14/\$140	\$15/\$150
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Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, November 1985	65-001P	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
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Telephone Statistics, October 1985	56-002	\$7.50/\$75	\$8.50/\$85
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