

# I·N·F·O·M·A·T

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

Friday, October 3, 1986

### OVERVIEW

#### ■ The Distribution of Wealth in Canada, 1984

Although the average wealth of family units was \$85,344, one-half of all family units had a net worth below \$39,876.

#### ■ Real Gross Domestic Product Increases 0.9%

In July, output from the goods-producing industries advanced by 1.3% and the service-producing industries grew by 0.7%.

#### ■ Raw Material Price Index Declines

In August, the slight decrease in the RMPI was mainly attributable to decreases in the mineral fuels and vegetable products components.

#### ■ Industrial Product Price Index Up Slightly

The IPPI rose 0.3% in August, reaching a level 0.6% higher than it was in August 1985.

#### ■ Wholesale Trade Up 12.7%

Wholesale merchants' sales for July were higher than a year earlier; all major trade groups registered sales increases.

#### ■ Canadian Crime Statistics, 1985

Criminal code offences increased 1.2% in 1985. However, the crime rate appears to be levelling off.

#### ■ This issue also includes information on Employment, Earnings and Hours.

#### The Distribution of Wealth in Canada, 1984

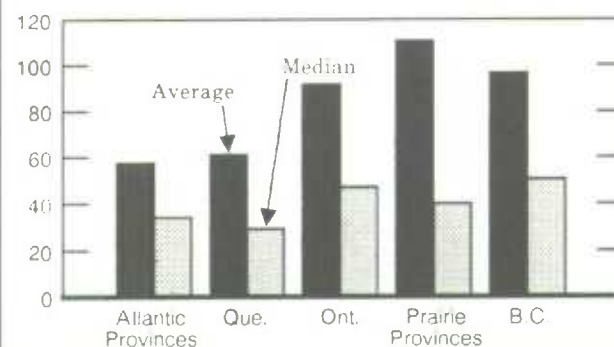
The average wealth (or net worth) of Canadian families and unattached individuals in May 1984 was \$85,344 while their average income in 1983 was \$29,113. The latest data available on assets and debts of households, collected as a supplement to the Survey of Consumer Finances conducted in May 1984, also show that families consisting of two or more persons had an average wealth of \$104,222 and an average income of \$34,748 while the average wealth for unattached individuals was \$38,146 and average income \$15,027.

The report The Distribution of Wealth in Canada, 1984 now available, presents detailed data on the distribution and composition of wealth according to selected socio-demographic characteristics. The following highlights pertain to all family units, that is, both families and unattached individuals.

(continued on page 2)

#### Wealth of Family Units

(Thousands of dollars)



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## ... The Distribution of Wealth in Canada

### Highlights:

- Although the average wealth of family units was \$85,344 – the median wealth was only \$39,876. (In other words, the net worth of one-half of all family units was below \$39,876.)
- The average wealth of family units varied dramatically according to total family income. Family units with 1983 incomes under \$5,000 had an average wealth of \$24,028 and for 58% of these family units the wealth was less than \$1,000. In contrast, family units with incomes of \$60,000 or more had an average wealth of \$293,468, with 53% of these family units reporting wealth of \$150,000 and over.
- By region, the average wealth of family units ranged from a high of \$111,507 in the Prairie provinces to a low of \$58,343 in Atlantic Canada.
- Family units headed by a person born outside Canada had an average wealth of \$101,971, compared to \$81,158 for family units with heads born in Canada.
- Data on the composition of wealth at the national level indicate that the value of owner-occupied homes accounted for 43% of total asset holdings for family units. A further 21% of total assets were held in the form of equity in businesses, farms or professional practices. Liquid and other financial assets accounted for 22% of total asset holdings.

- Mortgage debt on homes was the largest financial liability of family units. Expressed as a proportion of total asset holdings, this liability was estimated at 9% at the national level. Mortgage debt for family units with heads in the 25-34 age bracket was substantially higher than the overall average, at 21%.
- The data show that 59% of all family units owned their homes, which had an average market value of \$71,588 in May 1984. Of all home owners, 49% still had a mortgage to pay off, with an average of \$29,197 outstanding.
- Of all family units, 30% reported savings in Registered Retirement Savings Plans and/or Registered Home Ownership Savings Plans, 28% had Canada Savings Bonds and 14% owned equity in a business, farm, or professional practice.

### All families and unattached individuals

Income Group	Average Wealth	Median Wealth	Average Income	Average Age of Head
	dollars			years
Under \$5,000	24,028	798	2,439	40.9
\$5,000-9,999	25,238	3,487	7,428	53.4
\$10,000-14,999	45,891	19,614	12,530	51.1
\$15,000-24,999	63,396	28,070	19,889	45.9
\$25,000-34,999	74,807	40,979	29,668	42.4
\$35,000-44,999	94,328	58,797	39,539	42.8
\$45,000-59,999	130,450	88,311	51,461	44.8
\$60,000 +	293,468	160,674	82,735	47.2

For further information, contact Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division (613) 991-6898.

## Canadian Industrial Employment

In July, the total number of employees at the Canadian industrial aggregate level increased by an estimated 135,000 (1.5%) over July of last year. The yearly rate of change in the service-producing industries was 2.2% for the third consecutive month. The year-to-year growth rates in the goods-producing industries have declined steadily since the beginning of the year. The estimated number of employees in the forestry industry, mines, quarries and oil wells was lower than it was in July 1985.

Average weekly earnings increased slightly from June to July. Larger than usual increases were noted in manufacturing, construction, trade and public administration. The forestry industry and community, business and personal services showed smaller than usual declines in average weekly earnings.

Compared to July 1985, average weekly earnings increased by \$12.17 or 2.9%, to \$432.17. This was similar to the yearly rate of change observed since April but lower than that recorded in the first three months of the year. In the goods-producing industries earnings were up 2.4% over July 1985, while the service-producing industries advanced by 3.3%.

Employees paid by the hour (who account for approximately 48% of industrial aggregate employment) worked an average of 32.7 hours a week in July, showing little change from June but down slightly from July 1985. The estimated average weekly hours were 29.6 in the service-producing industries and 38.4 in the goods-producing industries.

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

## Real Gross Domestic Product Increases 0.9%

Gross Domestic Product at factor cost advanced 0.9% in July, following no growth in June and a decline of 0.9% in May. This monthly increase was the second largest advance since September 1985.

Output from the goods-producing industries grew 1.3% in July. The most significant advances during the month occurred in the manufacturing, logging and mining industries. A gain of 3.0% in manufacturing was the largest monthly increase since a 4.1% advance in January 1983. Manufacturers of primary metal, wood, paper, electrical, food and chemical products all posted substantial production increases. The advance in logging and forestry output stemmed mainly from increased production of sawlogs in British Columbia.

Mining and construction were the only two industries to record notable output decreases in July. Mining activity slipped to its lowest level since November 1983. The continuing decline in gas and oil

## Real Gross Domestic Product

	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July
	% change, previous month				
Real Gross Domestic Product	-1.1	2.0	-0.9	0.0	0.9
Goods industries	-2.3	2.4	-2.1	-1.6	1.3
Service industries	-0.3	1.8	-0.1	1.1	0.7
Industrial production	-2.7	2.7	-1.8	-1.1	1.4

exploration activity and sharp decrease in production of asbestos and potash contributed to the overall decline in mining. The decrease in the construction industry was mainly due to reductions in activity related to exploration and processing of gas and oil.

Output from the service-producing industries grew 0.7%. Wholesale trade was up 4.2% and retail trade gained 1.4%. Following a decline in May and no growth in June most of the advance in retail trade was attributed to a surge in new motor vehicle sales.

For further information, contact Industry Measures and Analysis Division (613) 991-3673.

## Raw Materials Price Index Declines

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1981 = 100) was down slightly in August, after dropping 1.4% in July. This monthly decrease was mainly attributable to declines in the mineral fuels and vegetable products components. Of the seven components making up the RMPI, three registered decreases, two were unchanged and two increased. Excluding mineral fuels, the RMPI showed an increase of 0.8% over the month.

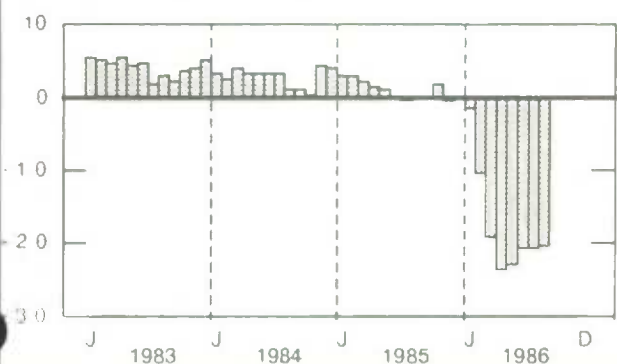
In August, the mineral fuels component fell 1.5%. Crude oil prices were estimated to have dropped 2.1% over the month, to a level 52.6% lower than a year ago. Of the two other commodities in this component, thermal coal rose (0.4%) and natural gas was unchanged.

The vegetable products component fell 2.9% in August, reflecting a significant decline in the index for grains. Wheat, barley, corn and oats all registered price decreases.

The animal and animal products component was up (2.8%), its fourth consecutive increase. Hog prices continued to be a source of upward pressure, rising 7.2% over the month to reach a level 46.4% higher than in August 1985. Higher cattle for slaughter prices (up 2.5%) also contributed to the increase.

### Raw Material Price Index

(% change, previous year)



## Raw Materials Price Index

	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
	% change, previous month				
Total	-7.7	-0.1	1.0	-0.9	-0.1
Mineral fuels	-16.7	-1.2	1.8	-4.1	-1.5
Excluding mineral fuels	-1.1	0.5	0.5	1.2	0.8

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



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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM SEPTEMBER 26 TO OCTOBER 3

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### AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

**Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry.** July 1986 Catalogue number 23-003 (Canada: \$10/\$100; Other Countries: \$11/\$110)

**Production of Maple Products and Value of Maple Products.** 1986 and 1985 Catalogue number 22-204 (Canada: \$10; Other Countries: \$11)

### CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS

**Canadian Crime Statistics.** 1985 Catalogue number 85-205 (Canada: \$25; Other Countries: \$26.50)

### EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM

**Education Statistics Bulletin.** Vol. 8, No. 6: **Schools for the Blind and Deaf**, 1975-76 to 1985-86 Catalogue number 81-002 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

### INDUSTRY

**Aircraft and Aircraft Parts Manufacturers.** 1984 Catalogue number 42-203 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

**Appliance, Radio and Television Manufacturers.** 1984 Catalogue number 43-212 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

**Canned and Frozen Fruit and Vegetables.** April 1986 Catalogue number 32-011 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

**Department Store Sales and Stocks.** May 1986 Catalogue number 63-002 (Canada: \$13/\$130; Other Countries: \$14/\$140)

**Electric Power Statistics.** June 1986 Catalogue number 57-001 (Canada: \$8/\$80; Other Countries: \$9/\$90)

**Electrical Industrial Equipment Industries.** 1984 Catalogue number 43-207 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

**Footwear Statistics.** July 1986 Catalogue number 33-002 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

**Glass and Glass Products Industries.** 1984 Catalogue number 44-207 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

**Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins.** July 1986 Catalogue number 46-002 (Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60)

**Leather and Allied Products Industries.** 1984 Catalogue number 33-207 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

**Men's Clothing Industries.** 1984 Catalogue number 34-216 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

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**Non-ferrous Metal Smelting and Refining Industries.** 1984 Catalogue number 41-214 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

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**Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder.** August 1986 Catalogue number 32-024 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

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

**Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies.** June 1986 Catalogue number 35-002 (Canada: \$8/\$80; Other Countries: \$9/\$90)

**Retail Trade.** June 1986 Catalogue number 63-005 (Canada: \$14/\$140; Other Countries: \$15/\$150)

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**Textile Products Industries.** 1984 Catalogue number 34-224 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

### LABOUR AND HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS ANALYSIS

**The Distribution of Wealth in Canada.** 1984 Catalogue number 13-580 (Canada: \$25; Other Countries: \$26.50)

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**Federal Government Finance.** 1984 Catalogue number 68-211 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

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**Price Indexes for Canadian Industrial Research and Development Expenditures.** Catalogue number 88-509 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

**Science Statistics Service Bulletin.** Vol. 10, No. 8: **The Regional Distribution of R&D in Canada**, 1979 to 1984 Catalogue number 88-001 (Canada: \$6/\$60; Other Countries: \$7/\$70)

### SERVICES

**Communications Service Bulletin.** Vol. 16, No. 5: **Telecommunication Statistics, First Quarter 1986** Catalogue number 56-001 (Canada: \$6.50/\$39; Other Countries: \$7.50/\$45)

**Telephone Statistics.** June 1986 Catalogue number 56-002 (Canada: \$7.50/\$75; Other Countries: \$8.50/\$85)

**Traveller Accommodation Statistics.** 1984 Catalogue number 63-204 (Canada: \$15; Other Countries: \$16)

### TRANSPORTATION

**Coastwise Shipping Statistics.** 1985 Catalogue number 54-210 (Canada: \$42; Other Countries: \$43)

## Industrial Product Price Index Up Slightly

In August, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1981=100) rose 0.3% over July. Price increases for meat, lumber, wood-pulp, newsprint and motor vehicles were partially offset by a decrease in prices for petroleum and coal products. The year-over-year change was 0.6%, the largest annual advance since May 1986.

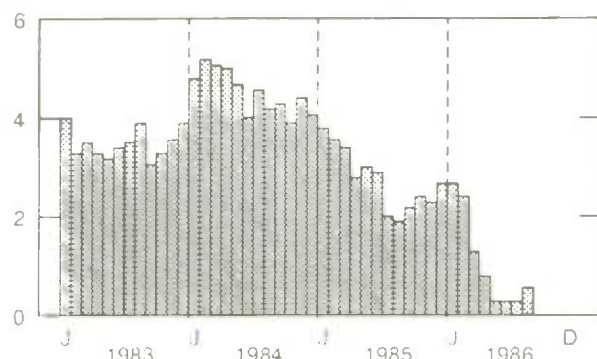
Increasing for the fourth consecutive month, prices for meat products were 3.3% higher than they were in July. Substantial gains were recorded for most meat products but the most notable were for pork, chicken and cured meat.

The 4.9% increase in softwood lumber prices in August was partially due to a strike in British Columbia that began on July 23.

The fluctuating value of the Canadian dollar continued to affect prices of exported goods (quoted in US currency), in particular, prices for pulp, newsprint and motor vehicles.

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

**Industrial Product Price Index**  
(% change, previous year)



Prices for petroleum and coal products (-2.2%) continued to drop, falling for the eighth consecutive month. However, the rate of descent has slowed in the last three months.

## Wholesale Trade Up 12.7%

Preliminary estimates of wholesale merchants' sales for July were 12.7% higher than in July 1985. All major trade groups registered increased sales from a year earlier. The trade groups having a significant impact on the overall sales increase were machinery, equipment and supplies (14.6%), lumber and building materials (26.5%) and motor vehicles and accessories (15.4%).

Dealers in lumber and building materials have reported year-over-year increases in sales for 14 consecutive months. The average increase in 1985 was a moderate 4.5% as sales declined on a year-over-year basis for the first five months of the year.

However, cumulative sales for January to July 1986 were up 24.3% from the same period of 1985. In July, their inventories were 16.1% above the level reported in July 1985. The stock to sales ratio was down to 1.32:1 from 1.44:1 a year earlier.

All regions posted year-over-year sales increases in July. They ranged from 19.2% in Ontario to 5.2% in the Prairie provinces. To date in 1986, the average of year-over-year advances in Ontario and British Columbia, the Yukon and Northwest Territories exceed those recorded in 1985. In Québec and the Atlantic and Prairie provinces wholesale trade has grown but at a slower rate than in 1985.

*For further information, contact Industry Division (613) 991-3537.*

## Canadian Crime Statistics, 1985

- In 1985, criminal code offences reported to police in Canada were up 1.2% over 1984.
- Nationally, the crime rate appears to be levelling off – as is the crime rate in the United States.
- Violent crimes increased 5.8%, while property crimes remained virtually unchanged from the previous year.
- Drug and narcotic offences were up 4.1% from a year earlier.

- Cannabis accounted for 76.6% of reported drug offences, essentially unchanged from 1984 but down from 90% in 1979.
- Since 1981, offences involving addicting opiate-like drugs (heroin, cocaine and other drugs) have almost doubled. There were 41 such offences per 100,000 of population in 1985 compared with 21 per 100,000 in 1981.
- The numbers of actual drug offences in 1985 were: heroin 942, cocaine 3,275 and cannabis 43,799.

*For further information, contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (613) 990-6634.*



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## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
<b>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</b>				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	July*	432.17	431.50	2.9
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
<b>INVENTORIES</b>				
Department Store (\$ million)	July	3,937	3,644	16.0
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	July	33,854	34,058	-0.5
<b>ORDERS</b>				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	July	19,665	21,487	1.9
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	July	24,484	24,529	1.1
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1981 = 100)	Aug.	133.3	132.9	4.3
New House Price Index (1981 = 100)	July	103.9	103.2	8.3
Raw Materials Price Index (1981 = 100)	Aug.*	90.8	90.8	-20.7
Excl. coal, crude oil, natural gas	Aug.*	105.2	104.5	6.8
Industrial Product Price Index (1981 = 100)	Aug.*	119.1	118.9	0.6
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
			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
<b>ENERGY</b>				
Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	July*	3,631	233,180	-8.1
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
<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b>				
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
<b>SALES</b>				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	July	928	6,286	7.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	July	19,711	146,125	4.8
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	July	1,970	13,241	12.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	July	11,887	77,402	8.4

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

\* new this week

## Infomat

## A Weekly Review

Published by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613) 991-1103

Editor: Linda McCormick (613) 991-1088

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, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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