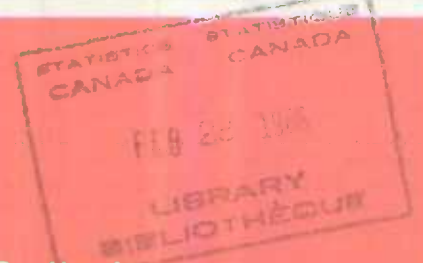


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Weekly Bulletin



February 28, 1986

## Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance benefit payments in December 1985 totalled \$787 million, up 10.5% from the preceding month, but down 1.8% from December 1984. For the year 1985, disbursements to claimants amounted to \$10,227 million, an increase of 2.4% over the year 1984. This change mainly reflected a 5.8% advance in the annual average weekly payment (from \$161.62 to \$170.96). By comparison, the number of benefit weeks in 1985 fell 3.4% to 59.8 million from the 61.9 million recorded in 1984.

During the month of December, 312,000 claims for unemployment insurance benefits were received, down 11.5% from November 1985 and 4.4% from December 1984. For the year 1985, Commission offices received 3.31 million claims, a decline of 5.2% from a year earlier. The number of claims for the calendar year 1985 increased in Newfoundland (+1.3%), Prince Edward Island (+1.6%) and Saskatchewan (+1.3%).

(continued on page 2, col. 2)

## Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics

According to preliminary results for the fourth quarter of 1985, seasonally adjusted pre-tax profits of industrial corporations climbed 8.3% or \$808 million from the previous quarter to a level of \$10.6 billion. This reverses the trend of the two preceding quarters which reflected profit declines of 2.1% and 3.5% respectively.

On an industry basis, 27 of the 47 industries registered growth in seasonally adjusted pre-tax profits, while 19 posted declines and one industry remained unchanged. The petroleum and coal industry, following a significant reduction in pre-tax profits in the third quarter of 1985, led the fourth quarter resurgence in industry profits with a \$538 million increase. The metal mining industry registered the largest profit decline over the period, falling \$129 million.

Sales were up 1.8% from the third to the fourth quarter of 1985, while operating income rose 11.7% or \$0.8 billion. As a result, the operating margin increased to 4.0%, the level maintained for several quarters prior to the third quarter 1985 dip to 3.7%. The interest coverage ratio, which measures the ability of corporations to meet interest charges out of current profits, climbed to 2.85 from 2.73 in the prior quarter. The actual level of interest expense stood at \$5.7 billion in the fourth quarter.

(continued on page 2, col. 1)

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings(\$)	Nov.	425.15	425.04	3.5
Labour Income (\$ million)	Nov.	21,253.9	21,384.3	6.9
Persons with Jobs (million)	Jan.	11.20	11.34	4.8
Unemployed	Jan.	1,347,000	1,238,000	-9.2

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Dec.	3,536.6	4,332.8	12.7
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Dec.	33,786.6	33,983.2	2.1

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Dec.	19,667.3	21,180.9	12.2
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Dec.	22,207.9	22,339.0	1.9

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981 = 100)	Jan.*	130.1	129.5	4.4
New House Price Index (1981 = 100)	Dec.	98.2	97.8	3.7
Raw Materials Price Index (1977 = 100)	Dec.	219.3	218.3	-1.1
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Dec.	158.2	156.6	1.3
Industry Selling Price Index (1971 = 100)	Dec.	323.1	321.8	2.8

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Nov.	1,466.6	18,022.8	26.2
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	Dec.	12,342	139,408	25.7

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Nov.	5 123	55 871	6.6
Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)	Nov.	40 013	401 899	4.7
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Oct.	7 862	76 927	7.8
Petroleum Refining (thousand cubic metres)	Dec.	7 331	86 216	-1.7

### 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)	Dec.	1,835.4	12,056.7	5.9
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Dec.	19,798.4	242,862.7	7.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Nov.	1,690.4	18,136.8	26.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Dec.	13,210.3	128,124.5	10.6

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

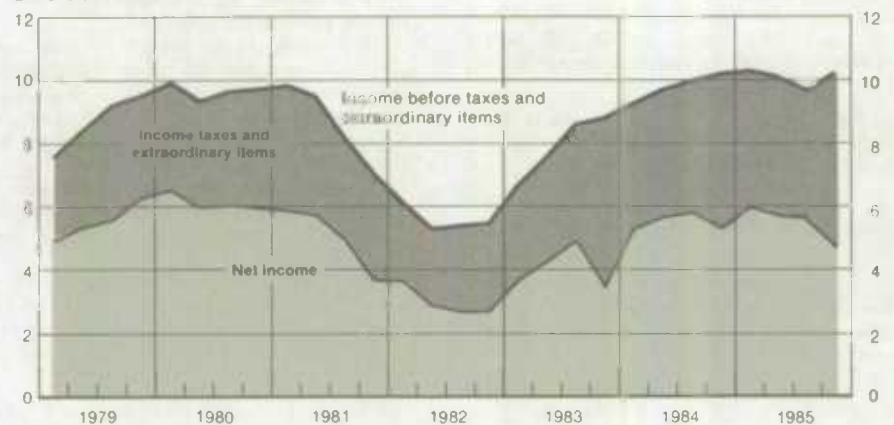
\* - new this week.

## Corporation Profits Industrial Corporations Sector

(Seasonally Adjusted)

Billions of dollars

Billions of dollars



Source: Statistics Canada, Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics (61-003)

Canada

### ... Industrial Corporations

On a year-over-year basis, unadjusted for seasonal variation, pre-tax corporate profits were up 3.3% to a record \$10.9 billion, following a 2.7% decline last quarter. The current pre-tax profit figure exceeds the previous high of \$10.6 billion registered in the fourth quarter of 1984.

Fourth quarter 1985 sales of \$191.4 billion were 6.7% higher than the same quarter of 1984 and reflected a record sales level.

Extraordinary items, mainly asset write-offs in several industries, totalled \$1.2 billion in the fourth quarter of 1985 and pulled the year-over-year net profit of industrial corporations down 13.2% from the fourth quarter of 1984.

For the 1985 year as a whole, pre-tax profits totalled \$40.7 billion, 3.8% ahead of the \$39.2 billion of 1984 and much improved from the \$31.8 billion pre-tax profit figure of 1983. Sales in 1985 were \$731.1 billion, up from sales of \$685.3 billion in 1984 and \$622.7 billion in 1983.

Order the Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics (61-003P, \$15/\$60), or contact Gail Campbell or Bill Potter (613-990-9843), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.

### Fall Enrolment in Canadian Universities

Preliminary data for the fall of 1985 indicate that full-time enrolment in Canadian universities increased by 1.5% over the previous year to reach an all-time high of 467,650 students. This marks the seventh consecutive year for which increases have been recorded - a total gain of 27%.

Newfoundland recorded the largest enrolment increase (18%) over the 1984-85 period, followed by Quebec (4.5%), Prince Edward Island (3%) and New Brunswick (3%). The substantial increase in Newfoundland matches a similar increase the previous year when the addition of one year (grade 12) to the secondary school program (in 1983) resulted in fewer secondary students graduating in that year and more students finishing their program and attending university the following year (1984).

Part-time enrolment in Canadian universities during the 1985-86 period rose by 2.5% to 279,850 students. New Brunswick and Saskatchewan recorded declines, Newfoundland and Manitoba remained unchanged while all other provinces registered increases, ranging from 1% to 14%.

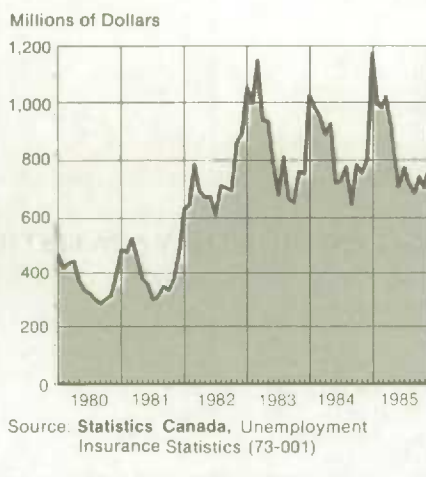
For further information, contact Tom Bird (613-991-1538), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

### Traffic Enforcement Statistics

For the third consecutive year, the number of "driving while impaired" offences has decreased in Canada. Since 1981, offences of this nature have declined from 157,977 offences to 141,911 in 1984.

Order the Vol. 6, No. 1 Juristat Bulletin (85-002, \$2/\$10), or phone the Law Enforcement Programme (613-990-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

### Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments



### ... Unemployment Insurance

In the remaining provinces the decreases ranged from 0.3% in Nova Scotia to 10.6% in Alberta.

For the week ending December 14, 1985, the number of beneficiaries stood at 1,141,000 - up 10.5% from the previous month, but down 9.9% from December 1984.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, the number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits declined by 0.6% between November and December 1985 to 976,000.

Order the December 1985 issue of Unemployment Insurance Statistics (73-001, \$12/\$120).

### The Growth in Jobs

The public sector's share of employment remained stable during the 1970s and early 1980s. *Canada's Industries: The Growth in Jobs Over Three Decades*, a report released this week, indicates the proportion of workers in the public sector remained at approximately 22% between 1971 and 1981. While the percentage of all workers employed in the health sector and provincial and local public administration rose, this was offset by a decline in the percentage of those employed in the education sector and federal public administration.

The most rapid employment growth occurred in services such as business services (consulting, advertising firms, etc.), accommodation and food services, amusement and recreational services, and insurance and real estate firms. In the commercial services sector of the economy, distributive services such as transportation, trade and communications provided most new jobs.

Small firms in general were the major source of new job creation, and in particular, small commercial service firms provided much of the employment creation during the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Order *Canada's Industries: The Growth in Jobs Over Three Decades, 1951-1984* (89-507E, \$18).

### Wholesale Trade

Spurred by strong increases in sales of machinery and equipment and imported motor vehicles, wholesale merchants' sales rose significantly in December 1985, advancing 19.6% over the same period in 1984. Revised sales for November 1985 were up 7.4% from the November 1984 level.

In December 1985, all major trade groups registered increased sales from a year earlier. The most notable gains were reported for the following major trade groups: motor vehicles and accessories (+38.4%); farm machinery, equipment and supplies (+34.2%) and lumber and building materials (+25.2%).

Wholesale inventories in December 1985 increased by 3.8% over the corresponding period in 1984. Revised inventories for November 1985 were up 3.9% from the November 1984 level.

The ratio of inventories to sales at the end of December 1985 stood at 1.66:1, down from 1.91:1 a year earlier.

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

### Gas Utilities

Sales of natural gas in Canada amounted to 4 933 million cubic metres in November 1985, an increase of 7.7% from the 4 581 million cubic metres produced a year earlier.

Reported exports to the United States were 2187 million cubic metres during November 1985, a decrease of 2.4% from 2241 million cubic metres in November 1984.

Order the November 1985 issue of Gas Utilities (55-002, \$10/\$100), or contact Gary Smalldridge (613-991-3567).



## Infomat

### 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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## Consumer Price Index

### National Highlights

The all-items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada (1981=100) increased by 0.5% between December 1985 and January 1986 to a level of 130.1. Five of the seven major component indexes registered increases. The rise in the food index (1.6%) exerted the greatest upward impact on the CPI, followed by advances in the transportation (0.6%), tobacco products and alcoholic beverages (1.0%) and the housing (0.2%) indexes. Some of these increases were offset by declines in the clothing index (-0.9%) and the recreation, reading and education index (-0.3%).

Seasonally adjusted, the all-items index advanced by 0.4% in January 1986 compared to a rise of 0.6% in December 1985.

The year-to-year increase in the CPI from January 1985 to January 1986 was 4.4%, identical to that reported for the 12-month period ending in December 1985, but higher than the average 4.0% increase for the year 1985 as a whole. The compounded annual rate based on the change in the seasonally adjusted indexes for the previous 3-month period (October 1985 to January 1986) was 6.4%, which was well above the year-to-year rate, confirming that recent price increases have been larger than earlier in 1985.

### Food

On a month-to-month basis, the food index rose by 1.6% in January, resulting from an increase of 1.9% in its principal component, the index for food purchased from stores. The index for food purchased from restaurants moved up by only 0.7%. A considerable part of the increase in the index for food purchased from stores originated from higher prices for fresh vegetables.

### All-items Excluding Food

On a month-to-month basis, the index for all-items excluding food rose (for the second consecutive month) by a moderate 0.2%. Most of the increase originated from advances in the indexes for transportation, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages and housing. The rise in the transportation index (0.6%) mainly reflected increases in federal sales taxes on new cars and on gasoline.

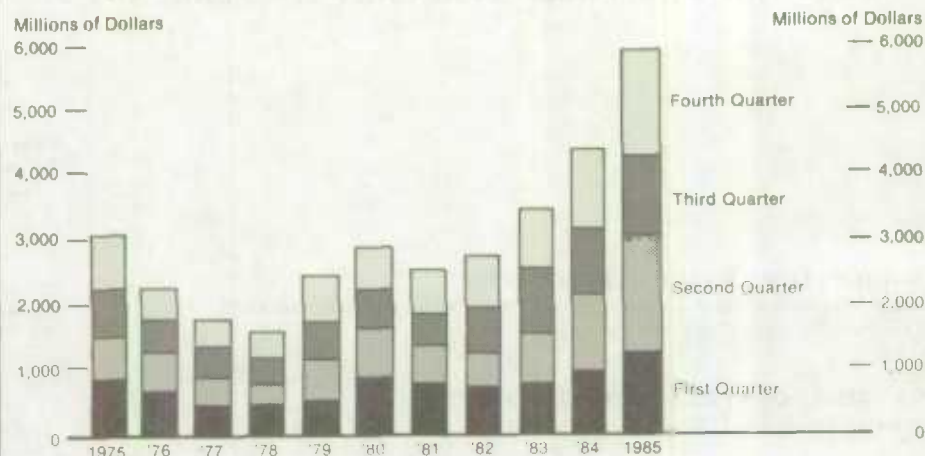
The rise in the housing index (0.2%) resulted, to a large extent, from higher charges for water, fuel oil and electricity observed in several cities across the nation. Rented accommodation costs also rose as did the prices of detergent, soap and pet food. However, the overall increase in the housing index was modest because owned accommodation charges recorded no change and the prices of furniture and household textiles fell.

### Goods and Services

The monthly index for goods increased by 0.7% while that for services rose by 0.1%. Since January 1985, the price level for both goods and services has advanced by 4.3%.

Order the January 1986 issue of *The Consumer Price Index* (62-001, \$8/\$80), or contact Sandra Shadlock (613-990-9606), Prices Division.

## Canadian Exports of Crude Petroleum



Source: Statistics Canada, Exports by Commodities (65-004)

## Non-residential Construction Output Price Indexes

The price index for non-residential construction rose to 108.2 for the fourth quarter of 1985, up 0.8% from the third quarter of 1985. Prices for commercial construction posted the largest increase at 0.9%, followed by industrial construction (0.8%) and institutional construction (0.7%).

Price increases continued to be higher in the four eastern cities when compared to those in Western Canada. A comparison by city shows Toronto with the largest price increases for non-residential construction - up 1.2% from the third quarter of 1985 and 5.4% on a year-over-year basis. Price changes in other cities for the latest quarter and on a year-over-year basis were as follows: Ottawa, 1.1% and 4.4%; Montreal, 0.6% and 3.6%; Halifax, 1.0% and 3.2%; Vancouver, 0.9% and 3.1%; Edmonton, 0.7% and 0.8% and Calgary, 0.7% and -0.5%.

Order the fourth quarter issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), or contact the Prices Division (613-990-9608).

## Union Wage Rate Indexes

The Canada total Union Wage Rate Index (1981=100) for construction trades (including supplements) registered no change between January 1986 and December 1985, remaining at a level of 132.1.

Comparing January 1986 with the same month in 1985, the Canada total level rose 3.4%. By city, the largest increase in union wage rates for the construction trades was reported in Halifax (10.1%) while indexes in cities in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia increased 4.4% on average. Indexes advanced 2.4% in Saint John and 2.0% in Winnipeg while in Newfoundland, Alberta and Saskatchewan increases were less than 1%.

Order the first quarter 1986 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), or contact Lisa-Gay Tremblay (613-990-9601), Prices Division.

## Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production

Preliminary figures show production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons for November 1985 increased 4.9% from the previous year to 7814.4 thousand cubic metres.

Exports advanced 23.0% from November 1984 to 2 349.3 thousand cubic metres while imports climbed 48.9% to 1 671.6 thousand cubic metres. Canadian refinery receipts of crude oil increased 3.8% to 7 106.5 thousand cubic metres.

Preliminary figures show net withdrawals of natural gas in November 1985 increased 4.7% from a year earlier, totalling 9 193.8 million cubic metres. Marketable production of natural gas after treatment at processing plants amounted to 7 374.9 million cubic metres, up 5.2%, while net withdrawals of natural gas liquids (propane, butanes and ethane) totalled 1 070.3 thousand cubic metres, down 15.0%.

Exports of natural gas in November 1985 amounted to 2 186.6 million cubic metres, down 2.4% from the previous year while sales in Canada increased 7.7% to 4 936.8 million cubic metres.

Order the November 1985 issue of *Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, \$8/\$80), or contact G. O'Connor (613-991-3562), Industry Division.

## International Travel Account

In the fourth quarter of 1985, preliminary estimates show that Canada had an international travel account deficit of \$546 million, down from \$564 million in the same period of 1984. Receipts from international travel amounted to \$817 million, up 18.8% from the fourth quarter of 1984, while payments by Canadians travelling abroad increased by 8.9% to \$1,363 million. Preliminary estimates for 1985 show that Canada received \$4,962 million from international travel, 12.4% above 1984.

Order the October-December issue of *Travel Between Canada and Other Countries* (66-001, \$35/\$140).



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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FEBRUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 27

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
<b>AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, December 1985	62-003	\$6/\$60	\$7/\$70
The Dairy Review, December 1985	23-001	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
<b>CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS</b>			
Juristat, Vol. 6, No. 1: Traffic Enforcement Statistics, 1979-1984	85-002	\$2/\$10	\$3/\$15
<b>ECONOMETRIC ANALYSIS</b>			
Current Economic Indicators, Vol. 2, No. 1 - February 1986	13-005	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
<b>EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM</b>			
Culture Statistics, 1984	87-202	\$8	\$9
<b>HEALTH</b>			
Canadian Workload Measurement System - Laboratory - A Schedule of Unit Values for Clinical Laboratory Procedures, 1986-87	83-234	\$20	\$21.50
<b>INDUSTRY</b>			
Asphalt Roofing, December 1985	45-001	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Coal and Coke Statistics, November 1985	45-002	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
Construction Type Plywood, December 1985	35-001	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers, December 1985	36-004	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Fruit and Vegetable Preservation, Vol. 14, No. 5: Pack of Processed Cherries, 1985	32-023	\$6/\$100	\$7/\$110
Fruit and Vegetable Preservation, Vol. 14, No. 13: Pack of Processed Pumpkin and Squash, 1985	32-023	\$6/\$100	\$7/\$110
Fruit and Vegetable Preservation, Vol. 14, No. 20: Pack of Processed Cauliflower, 1985	32-023	\$6/\$100	\$7/\$110
Gas Utilities, October 1985	55-002	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
Oil Pipe Line Transport, November 1985	55-001	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada, December 1985	47-004	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Production, Sales and Stocks of Major Appliances, December 1985	43-010	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
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Wholesale Trade, November 1985	63-008	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
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<b>LABOUR</b>			
Employment, Earnings and Hours, November 1985	72-002	\$35/\$350	\$36.50/\$365
<b>SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES</b>			
Canada's Industries: Growth in Jobs Over Three Decades, 1951-1984	89-507E	\$18	\$19
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Railway Carloadings, 7-day Period Ending February 7, 1986	52-005	\$75	\$100
Railway Operating Statistics, October 1985	52-003	\$9.50/\$95	\$10.50/\$105

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