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Weekly Bulletin

April 11, 1986

Labour Force Survey

Overview

Estimates from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey for March 1986 showed little change in labour market conditions. While employment remained virtually unchanged, the seasonally adjusted level of unemployment declined by 23,000 - lowering the unemployment rate to 9.6.

Employment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of employment for the week ended March 15, 1986 was 11,626,000 - virtually unchanged from the February level. Employment rose by 10,000 to 6,670,000 for males and decreased by 13,000 to 4,956,000 for females. The number of employed persons between the ages of 15 and 24 remained fairly steady at 2,415,000, as an increase of 19,000 among young males failed to offset a 23,000 decline among young females. Employment among persons aged 25 and over was virtually unchanged at an estimated 9,211,000.

The estimated level of full-time employment declined slightly to 9,801,000. Part-time employment rose by 14,000 to 1,828,000 - entirely as a result of a 16,000 increase among males.

Employment was down by 19,000 in the primary industries excluding agriculture, by 10,000 in finance, insurance and real estate and by 10,000 in public administration. It grew by 12,000 in transportation, communications and other utilities and by 18,000 in trade. Other sectors showed little change.

The estimated level of employment declined by 3,000 in Newfoundland and Alberta, and increased by 8,000 in British Columbia. There was little or no change in the other provinces.

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployment was 1,238,000 in March 1986, a drop of 23,000 from the previous month. This decrease was almost entirely due to a 20,000 decline among males aged 15 to 24. Unemployment was estimated at 456,000 in the 15 to 24 age group and 782,000 in the 25 and over group. Overall, the unemployment level stood at 683,000 for males and 555,000 for females.

The estimated level of unemployment fell by 22,000 in Ontario, and rose by 4,000 in Newfoundland and 8,000 in Alberta. There was little or no change in the remaining provinces.

(continued on page 2, col. 1)

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

Average Weekly Earnings(\$)	Jan.	427.59	424.32	3.9
Labour Income (\$ million)	Jan.*	20,891.3	21,111.7	7.1
Persons with Jobs (million)	Mar.*	11.30	11.25	4.0
Unemployed	Mar.*	1,380,000	1,341,000	-10.7

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Jan.	3,580.3	3,536.6	18.9
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Jan.*	34,377.4	34,107.2	1.6

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Jan.*	20,473.7	19,429.4	9.3
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Jan.*	24,085.2	23,696.3	2.7

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981 = 100)	Feb.	130.6	130.1	4.1
New House Price Index (1981 = 100)	Jan.	99.4	98.2	4.6
Raw Materials Price Index (1981 = 100)	Feb.	105.5	115.4	-10.6
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Feb.	102.2	103.3	1.0
Industrial Product Price Index (1981 = 100)	Feb.	120.5	120.7	2.4

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec.	1,349.4	19,372.2	25.9
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	Jan.	9,335	9,335	21.8

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Jan.*	5 596	5 596	4.7
Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)	Jan.*	45 515	45 515	3.5
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Dec.	10 345	96 418	7.1
Petroleum Refining (thousand cubic metres)	Jan.	6 641	6 641	5.0

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Jan.	10,124	10,124	10.8
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Jan.	8,973	8,973	16.4

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Jan.	19.3	19.3	5.0
Steel (ingots - thousand tonnes)	Dec.	1 200	14 553	-0.1

SALES

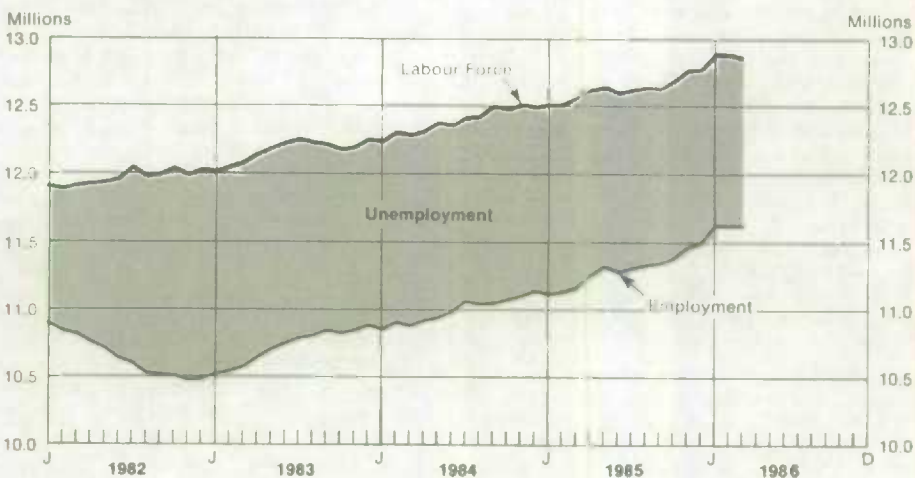
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	762.7	762.7	10.2
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Jan.*	20,084.8	20,084.8	9.8
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.*	1,537.5	2,877.4	22.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	9,687.4	9,687.4	11.9

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/Population Ratio

The seasonally adjusted employment/population ratio edged down 0.1 to 59.5 in March 1986. It remained unchanged at 57.7 in the 15 to 24 age group, as a 1.0 decline among young females was offset by a 0.9 increase among young males. For persons aged 25 and over, the ratio fell slightly to 60.0.

Unadjusted Data

The unadjusted estimate of employment for March 1986 was 11,301,000 – up 437,000 (4.0%) from a year earlier. The level of unemployment dropped by 166,000 (10.7%) during the 12-month period to 1,380,000. Between March 1985 and March 1986 the unemployment rate declined by 1.6 to 10.9. Over the same period the participation rate rose by 0.6 to 64.9, and the employment/population ratio climbed by 1.6 to 57.9.

Order the March 1986 issue of **The Labour Force** (71-001, \$20/\$200), or contact Ken Bennett (613-990-9448), Household Surveys Division.

International Travel

Total Travel

During February 1986, preliminary statistics indicate an estimated 1.6 million visits to Canada by United States residents, an increase of 11.9% from the same month in 1985. Visits by residents of other countries rose by 5.9% to 57,700 in February. The number of Canadian re-entries following visits to the United States totalled 2.2 million, down 4.1% from February 1985 figures. Visits by Canadian residents returning from all other countries increased by 8.3% to 202,900.

Total international travel flows during the first two months of 1986 were as follows: 3.2 million trips by United States residents to Canada, a rise of 14.8% compared with 1985; 118,200 visits by residents from other countries, an increase of 6.2%; 4.8 million visits by Canadian residents returning from the United States, a decrease of 0.8%, while trips by residents returning from other countries numbered 456,800 – an advance of 8.8% from 1985.

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 14.5% to 413,100 in February 1986, the highest February level on record.

Visits by residents of other countries – excluding those arriving by land via the United States and intending to stay less than 24 hours – numbered 54,800, an advance of 7.2% from February 1985. Canadian tourist re-entries from the United States numbered 579,700 in February, down 4.0%, while trips by residents returning from countries other than the United States increased by 8.3% to 202,900.

Order the February 1986 issue of **International Travel – Advance Information** (66-001P, \$5/\$50), available mid-April 1986. Contact: Paul L. Paradis (613-990-8533), International Travel Section, International and Financial Economics Division.

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Labour Income

Labour income for the month of January 1986 was estimated at \$20,891.3 million, an increase of \$1,376.3 million, or 7.1%, from January 1985.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries decreased to \$19,337.8 million in January 1986, down \$24.5 million from December 1985.

Order the January-March 1986 issue of **Estimates of Labour Income** (72-005, \$15/\$60).

Inventories, Shipments and Orders

Preliminary estimates indicate that the seasonally adjusted value of shipments in all Canadian manufacturing industries increased 0.7% to \$21,495.2 million in January from the revised estimate of \$21,342.3 million in December.

The seasonally adjusted value of new orders received in January increased 0.2% to \$21,516.8 million from the revised December estimate of \$21,478.1 million.

The seasonally adjusted unfilled orders backlog at the end of January was \$24,172.2 million, up 0.1% from the revised December estimate of \$24,150.6 million.

Seasonally adjusted inventories owned by manufacturers at the end of January 1986 totalled \$34,269.2 million, down 1.1% from the previous month's revised value of \$34,646.2 million.

The ratio of seasonally adjusted total inventory owned to seasonally adjusted shipments declined from 1.62:1 in December to 1.59:1 in January.

Not adjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in January 1986 were estimated at \$20,084.8 million, 1.8% higher than the revised December value of \$19,728.9 million and 9.8% higher than the revised January 1985 value of \$18,284.8 million.

Order the January 1986 issue of **Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries** (31-001, \$15/\$150).

Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics

Quarter-to-Quarter Comparisons

According to fourth quarter 1985 final results, seasonally adjusted pre-tax profits of industrial corporations increased 9.6% or \$933 million from the previous quarter to a level of \$10.7 billion. This increase reverses the trend of the previous two quarters – a drop of 2.2% in the second quarter and 3.4% in the third quarter of 1985 – reflecting generally increased profit margins and sales.

An administrative change associated with the June 1985 Western accord on energy prices caused some of the profits in the integrated oil industry to be recorded in the fourth quarter, whereas under previous procedures these would have been recorded in the third quarter. According to the new procedure, the petroleum and coal industry profits are estimated at \$0.6 billion in the third quarter and at \$1.2 billion in the fourth quarter. It is not possible to tell how much of this increase is due to the administrative change and how much reflects an actual growth in industry profits.

Comparisons with the Fourth Quarter 1984

Fourth quarter 1985 pre-tax profits increased by 4.7% from \$10.6 billion to \$11.0 billion. (This followed a decline of 2.7% last quarter compared to the third quarter 1984.) However, asset writeoffs and other extraordinary items which totalled \$1.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 1985 pulled after-tax profits of industrial corporations down 15.0% from the fourth quarter of 1984.

Annual Data

For the year 1985 as a whole, pre-tax profits totalled \$40.9 billion, 4.2% 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 rose by 6.8% to \$732.1 billion compared to \$685.3 billion in 1984 and \$622.7 billion in 1983. Capital expenditures on new and used assets reported in the financial statements of large industrial corporations grew 14% in 1985 to \$32.5 billion, compared to \$28.5 billion in 1984 and \$27.6 billion in 1983.

Balance Sheet Data (Corporations with assets exceeding \$10 million)

Short-term liquidity, measured by the ratio of current assets to current liabilities (working capital ratio), was down slightly to 1.37 in the fourth quarter from 1.39 in the preceding quarter.

Long-term corporate liquidity, measured by long-term debt to equity (excluding debt between related corporations), stood at 58.5% in the fourth quarter, showing virtually no change from 58.6% in the third quarter and 58.8% in the fourth quarter of 1984.

The annualized rate of return on shareholders' equity (based on seasonally adjusted profit excluding asset writeoffs and other extraordinary items) increased to 10.2% in the fourth quarter of 1985 from 9.5% in the previous quarter, but is still below the recent high of 10.7% registered in the first quarter of 1985.

Order the fourth quarter issue of **Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics** (61-003, \$50/\$200).

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product in 1971 prices was unchanged in January 1986 from December 1985, following eight months of advances. Output of both goods-producing and service-producing industries remained at their December levels.

Some industries posted notable output increases during January - including insurance and real estate agencies, motor vehicle parts manufacturing, forestry, and telephone systems. The gain for insurance and real estate agencies was entirely due to increased real estate sales. The increase for telephone systems resulted from an increase in long distance service.

Some of the major output declines were registered by agriculture, residential construction and wholesale trade. The overall decline in wholesale trade output followed a large increase in December, leaving output at about the October level. Wholesalers of motor vehicles and parts accounted for about half the decrease in wholesale trade output in January. Wholesalers of machinery and equipment and wholesalers of food also showed declines.

Order the January 1986 issue of *Gross Domestic Product by Industry* (61-005, \$10/\$100), or contact Ron Kennedy (613-990-9145), *Industry Measures and Analysis Division*.

Farm Wages

Average hourly farm wages, without board, lodging, or house provided at February 15, 1986 were estimated to be \$5.44, up 4.0% compared to \$5.23 at February 15, 1985. The highest average wage, \$6.23 per hour, was paid in British Columbia, while the lowest, \$4.75, was paid in Quebec.

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

• Maritimes (P.E.I., N.S., N.B.)	\$4.88;
• Quebec	\$4.75;
• Ontario	\$5.27;
• Manitoba	\$6.01;
• Saskatchewan	\$6.22;
• Alberta	\$5.77;
• British Columbia	\$6.23;
• Canada	\$5.44.

Average daily wages without board were estimated at \$44.95 and monthly wages without board at \$1,012.00.

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

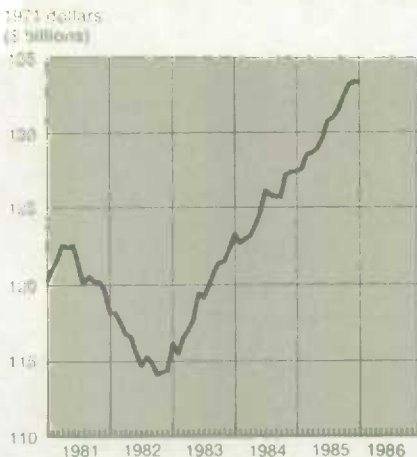
Coal Statistics

Canadian production of coal increased to 5 596 kilotonnes in January 1986, up 4.7% from the 5 343 kilotonnes produced a year earlier. Exports of coal totalled 2 123 kilotonnes, a drop of 20.9% from the 2 685 kilotonnes recorded in January 1985; no imports were reported.

Order the January 1986 issue of *Coal and Coke Statistics* (45-002, \$8/\$80), or contact Dave Madsen (613-990-9823), *Energy Section, Industry Division*.

Gross Domestic Product

(Seasonally Adjusted)



Department Store Sales by Regions

Department stores in Canada reported sales totalling \$696.0 million in February 1986, an increase of 7.6% from a year earlier.

Cumulative sales for the period January to February 1986 totalled \$1,458.7 million, up 8.9% from the same period in 1985.

On a regional basis, department store sales during the month were as follows (percentage change from February 1985 in parentheses):

- Atlantic provinces, \$44.9 million (5.4%);
- Quebec, \$128.7 million (6.3%);
- Ontario, \$251.9 million (9.2%);
- Manitoba, \$34.2 million (3.4%);
- Saskatchewan, \$21.6 million (3.3%);
- Alberta, \$101.1 million (10.2%);
- British Columbia, \$113.6 million (6.1%).

Order the February 1986 issue of *Department Store Sales by Regions* (63-004, \$2/\$20), or contact Lina Di Pietro (613-991-3551), *Retail Trade Section, Industry Division*.

Population for Canada

Population estimates for Canada, the provinces and territories as of January 1, 1986 are as follows:

• Canada	25,501,200;
• Newfoundland	580,700;
• Prince Edward Island	127,900;
• Nova Scotia	883,000;
• New Brunswick	720,300;
• Quebec	6,609,700;
• Ontario	9,139,800;
• Manitoba	1,075,400;
• Saskatchewan	1,019,600;
• Alberta	2,373,400;
• British Columbia	2,897,900;
• Yukon	22,700;
• Northwest Territories	50,900.

These postcensal estimates will be published in *Quarterly Estimates of the Population of Canada and the Provinces* (91-001, \$6/\$24), or contact Lise Champagne (613-990-9579), *Demography Division*.

New Motor Vehicle Sales

Unadjusted Sales

Sales of all new motor vehicles totalled 111,090 units in February 1986, up 14.6% or 14,181 units over February 1985. The principal factors accounting for this year-over-year increase were the sales of passenger cars built in North America which reached 58,743 units, an increase of 13.0% over February 1985, as well as the sales of North American commercial vehicles, which totalled 27,418 units, up 29.1%.

The 4.4% year-over-year rise in sales for overseas-built passenger cars comprised an increase of 26.5% for passenger cars manufactured in "other countries" (to 9,983 units) and a drop of 9.2% for passenger cars imported from Japan (to 11,625 units).

The share of the Canadian passenger car market held by North American manufacturers in February 1986 (based on unit sales) was 73.1%, up from the 71.5% recorded in February 1985. Japanese manufacturers held a market share of 14.5% compared to 17.6% in February 1985. Manufacturers from other countries held 12.4% of the passenger car market, a substantial increase from the 10.9% registered in the same month in 1985.

The total dollar value of all new motor vehicles sold in February 1986 increased by 26.6% from a year earlier to \$1,537.5 million. Sales of North American passenger cars rose 23.2% to \$739.1 million while sales of commercial vehicles increased by 41.4% to reach \$475.7 million. Sales of overseas passenger cars reached \$283.3 million, up 15.7% over the corresponding month in 1985. Total sales of commercial vehicles built overseas amounted to \$39.4 million, up 18.0%.

All provinces registered higher unit sales of motor vehicles in February 1986 compared to February 1985. The increases ranged from 33.4% in Newfoundland to 8.1% in Prince Edward Island.

Total sales in units reported for the first two months of 1986 increased by 11.1% over the same period last year to reach 207,822 units, valued at \$2,877.4 million, a gain of 22.2%.

Seasonally Adjusted Sales

Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, preliminary estimates of total unit sales of passenger cars increased by 2.5% in February to a level of 97,137 units. Sales of passenger cars built in North America totalled 72,074 units, an increase of 10.1% from the previous month's revised total. Sales of imported passenger cars totalled 25,063 units, a drop of 14.6% from the previous month's level. Total sales of commercial vehicles, both domestic and overseas, increased by 5.5% to 36,775 units from the revised total of 34,856 for January 1986.

Order the February 1986 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007, \$8/\$80), or contact Maurice Massaad (613-991-3549), *Retail Trade Section, Industry Division*.



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CANSIM			
Canadian Statistical Review, March 1986	11-003E	\$20/\$200	\$21.50/\$215
GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT			
National Income and Expenditure Accounts, Fourth Quarter 1985	13-001	\$15/\$60	\$16/\$64
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Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, February 1986	65-001P	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
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Railway Carloadings, 7-day Period Ending March 7, 1986	52-005	\$75	\$100
Railway Carloadings, 7-day Period Ending March 14, 1986	52-005	\$75	\$100
Water Transportation, 1984	54-205	\$32	\$33

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