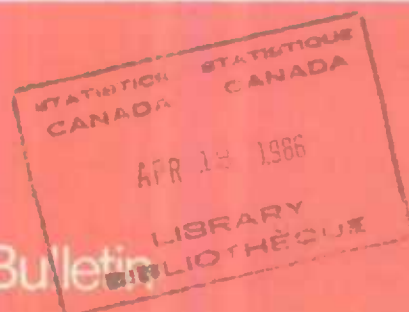


Statistics  
CanadaStatistique  
Canada

# infomat

Weekly Bulletin



April 18, 1986

## Retail Trade

### Unadjusted Sales

Preliminary estimates of total retail trade for February 1986 indicate an increase of 9.5% over the same month last year, totalling \$9,126.6 million in current dollars (not adjusted for inflation). Increased sales in February 1986 as compared to February 1985 were reported by all kinds of businesses surveyed with the exception of garages (-6.6%) and sporting goods and accessories stores (-1.1%). The most notable gains were registered by household appliance stores (+22.5%), motor vehicle dealers (+17.7%), and pharmacies, patent medicine and cosmetics stores (+17.5%).

All provinces and territories reported higher sales in February 1986 over the corresponding month in 1985, with gains ranging from 13.4% in Alberta to 5.8% in Prince Edward Island. At the metropolitan area level, sales advanced in all cities for which data are published: Toronto (+10.6%), Montreal (+8.8%), Winnipeg (+8.1%) and Vancouver (+7.2%).

The revised retail sales estimates for January 1986 amounted to \$9,631.5 million, an increase of 11.3% over January 1985.

Order the February 1986 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, \$14/\$140), or contact Lina Di Pietro (613-991-3551) or Maurice Massaad (613-991-3549), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

## Help-wanted Index

The seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index (1981 = 100) for Canada increased 2.4% to 86 from 84 between February and March 1986. Regional indexes advanced 7.3% in British Columbia (to 44 from 41), 6.1% in Ontario (to 104 from 98) and 1.1% in Quebec (to 90 from 89). Indexes declined 32.2% in the Atlantic provinces (to 139 from 205) and 2.1% in the Prairie provinces (to 46 from 47).

The Help-wanted Index three month average advanced to 86 from 83 or by 3.6% in the first quarter of 1986 as compared with the fourth quarter of 1985. Increases were observed in all regions except for the Atlantic provinces where the average declined 16.8%. Increases in the quarterly averages ranged from 4.7% in the Prairie provinces to 8.4% in Ontario.

Contact Horst Stiebert or Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-990-9900), Labour Division.

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings(\$)	Jan.	427.69	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)	Feb.*	100.6	99.4	5.9
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.	6,041	6,641	5.0

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Feb.*	9,453	19,456	6.3
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Feb.*	9,425	18,445	20.3

### PRODUCTION

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

### SALES

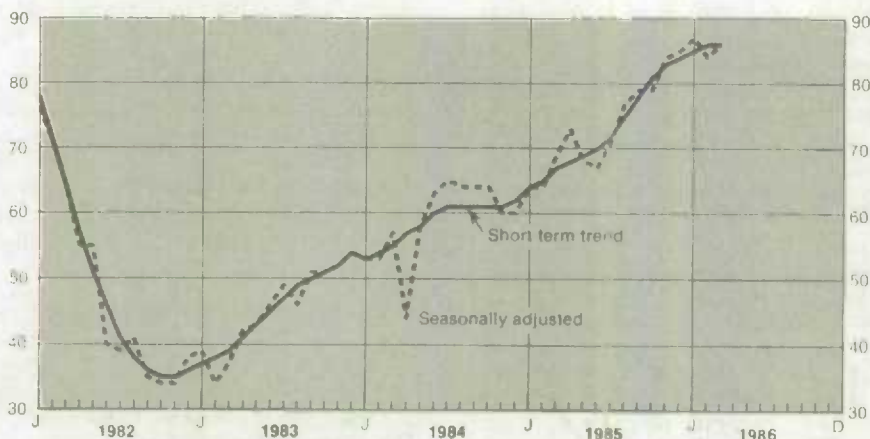
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	762.7	762.7	10.2
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Jan.	20,084.8	20,084.8	9.8
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	1,537.5	2,877.4	22.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.*	9,126.6	18,758.1	11.5

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

\* - new this week.

## Help-wanted Index, Canada

1981=100



Source: Statistics Canada, Help-wanted Index (71-003)



## Security Transactions

Net sales to non-residents of outstanding Canadian bonds totalled \$194 million in February 1986, half the amount recorded in January. Residents of the United States and Japan continued to be the main buyers of Canadian bonds. Net sales of outstanding Canadian stocks, largely to the United States, remained high at \$182 million, compared to \$214 million in January.

Residents purchased, on a net basis, outstanding foreign securities resulting in a net outflow of \$34 million. This contrasted with a net inflow of \$179 million in January.

Order the February 1986 issue of **Security Transactions with Non-Residents** (67-002, \$15/\$150), or contact J. Motala (613-990-9052), *Balance of Payments, International and Financial Economics Division*.

## Results From the Annual Work Patterns Survey

Of the 19.5 million persons in the population aged 15 years and over, 13.7 million were employed at some time in 1985 while 3.6 million persons were unemployed at some time, according to results from the Annual Work Patterns Survey. The survey conducted for the years 1984 and 1985 also shows:

- There were 8.7 million persons employed all year in 1985 compared to 8.3 million in 1984. The number of persons unemployed the entire year declined from 237,000 to 190,000; over half of this decrease occurred among persons aged 15-24 years.
- In 1985 and 1984, approximately 96% of all persons who were in the labour force at some time during the year were employed for all or part of that time, while approximately 26% were unemployed for all or part of that time. (Since persons can be both employed and unemployed during the year, the percentages do not add to 100%.)
- For persons who experienced at least one period of unemployment, the total number of weeks spent unemployed during 1985 was 17.7 weeks, on average. This ranged from a high of 20.8 weeks in Newfoundland to a low of 14.5 weeks in Ontario.

Order the March 1986 issue of **The Labour Force** (71-001, \$20/\$200), or contact Richard Veevers (613-990-9452), *Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division*.

## Steel Ingots

Steel ingot production for the month of February 1986 totalled 1 130 617 tonnes, a decrease of 1.3% from the 1 145 166 tonnes produced the previous year.

Order the February 1986 issue of **Primary Iron and Steel** (41-001, \$4/\$40), or contact G.W. Barrett (613-991-3515), *Industry Division*.

# Infomat

## Weekly Bulletin

Published by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada.

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

Editor: Rachele Pilon (613-991-1101)

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.

Published under the authority of the Minister of Supply and Services Canada. Statistics Canada should be credited when reproducing or quoting any part of this document.

## Construction Building Material Price Indexes

The non-residential construction building material price index (1981=100) declined to 122.8 in February, down 0.1% from its revised January level of 122.9. This index of non-residential building material prices now stands 4.2% higher than its year-ago level of 117.8.

Between January and February 1986, increases were noted in two of the four components. Structural materials increased 0.3% and architectural materials increased 0.1%. Mechanical materials remained unchanged but electrical materials decreased 1.3%. The largest price decrease was recorded in fluorescent lighting fixtures and this combined with other decreases more than offset price increases, notably for gypsum wallboard and particleboard.

### Residential

The price index for residential construction building materials (1981=100) rose to 124.6 in February, up 0.4% from its revised January level of 124.1. This index now stands 6.1% higher than its year-ago level of 117.4.

Between January and February 1986, increases were noted in three of the four components: architectural materials increased (0.6%), followed by structural materials (0.2%) and mechanical materials (0.2%). Electrical materials declined 0.7%.

Order the first quarter 1986 issue of **Construction Price Statistics** (62-007, \$15/\$60).

## Telephone Statistics

Canada's 13 major telephone systems reported monthly revenues of \$825.7 million in February 1986, up 7.2% from February 1985.

Operating expenses were \$547.3 million, an increase of 5.8% over February 1985. Net operating revenue was \$278.5 million, an increase of 10.2% over February 1985.

Order the February 1986 issue of **Telephone Statistics** (56-002, \$7.50/\$75).

## Composite Leading Indicator

The leading indicator posted its eighth straight increase in January, rising 1.2% to 169.4. The growth rate in January edged down from those of 1.3% recorded both in November and December, but remained close to the historical average for expansions.

The steady growth of passenger car and appliance sales, in tandem with the continuing upswing in the United States leading indicator, were responsible for most of the index's January increase. These large gains were partly offset by a decline in the residential construction index.

The non-filtered index levelled off in January, after growing steadily since April 1985.

Order **Current Economic Indicators** (13-005, \$10/\$100), or contact G. Proulx (613-990-9163).

## Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act

By all measurements the leading 500 non-financial enterprises in Canada maintained their market share in 1983 accounting for 54.8% of total industry sales, 68.2% of assets and 69.8% of profits.

### Assets

In 1983, the share of total assets held by non-financial, foreign-controlled corporations declined two-tenths of a percentage point to 24.3%. Foreign-controlled assets increased by 3.3% to \$146.6 billion, while those of Canadian-private-controlled corporations increased by 4.2% to \$340.4 billion.

### Sales

The foreign-controlled share of total non-financial sales increased four-tenths of a percentage point to 29.6% in 1983. Foreign-controlled corporations reported sales of \$194.9 billion, an increase of 5.1% over 1982, while Canadian private-controlled corporations had sales totalling \$417.8 billion, up 2.6%. Canadian government controlled corporations had sales of \$44.8 billion, an increase of 7.9%.

### Profits

The share of profits of foreign-controlled corporations, at 43.6% in 1983, was up by 2.7 percentage points from 1982. Profits earned by foreign-controlled corporations increased by 37.7% to \$14.4 billion. Canadian private-controlled corporations increased by 17.7% to \$15.1 billion and the Canadian government sector increased by 49.0% to \$3.5 billion.

### Taxable Income

The share of total taxable income of non-financial industries by foreign-controlled corporations amounted to 43.6% in 1983, an increase of 1.9 percentage points from 1982. The taxes payable ratio on book profits decreased to 28.9% from 35.3% for foreign-controlled corporations with assets greater than \$25 million and decreased to 27.8% from 32.2% for their Canadian controlled counterparts.

Order the 1983 edition of **Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act, Part I, Corporations** (61-210, \$50), or contact Roy St-Germain (613-990-9858), *Industrial Organization and Finance Division*.





## Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

— Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis

Preliminary estimates indicate a sharp reversal in Canada's export markets in February. Exports dropped 6.6% or \$707 million to \$10.1 billion after a 5.8% increase in January.

Imports increased a further 0.9% to a record \$9.9 billion following a 9.4% jump in January. The net effect on the merchandise trade balance was a drop of \$796 million to a surplus of \$206 million — the smallest monthly surplus that Canada has recorded since September 1981.

### Short-term Trend

With the addition of February data, the short-term trend for exports was again marginally downward in the current period, a recurrence of the weakness shown at the end of 1985. The decline was primarily attributable to energy products and to smaller declines in automotive products, machinery, forestry and agricultural and fish products.

The short-term trend for imports has shown modest growth since December 1984 but has been accelerating over the last few months. The acceleration was widespread among the major commodity groupings, notably in automotive products, machinery, industrial goods and materials, in consumer goods, agricultural and fish products, and in forestry products.

### Commodity Highlights

Nearly half of the decline in total exports was due to a 26.2% decline in the energy sector. Current dollar exports of crude petroleum plummeted nearly 40%, primarily attributable to tumbling commodity prices. Coal registered a similar decline while petroleum products fell 25.4%. Exports of automotive products registered significant declines as sales of new motor vehicles slowed in the United States.

Imports of energy products posted a decline similar to exports (-20.5%), due to falling commodity prices. A drop of 28.2% in imports of crude petroleum was the major contributor. Industrial goods and materials also registered a significant decline of 6.5%, primarily due to a drop in imports of precious metals. In contrast, automotive products increased 4.7%, largely attributable to a 17.2% increase in motor vehicle parts which was partly offset by a 9.9% decline in passenger cars.

### Trading Partner Highlights

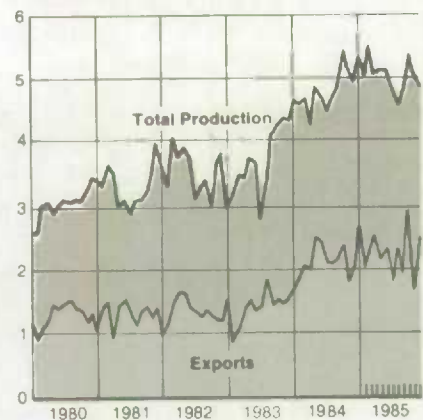
The decline in exports was widespread among most of Canada's trading partners. Exports to the United States declined 4.4% following a 3.7% increase in January; automotive and energy products were the major contributors. This loss accounted for more than half of the total decline.

Imports from the United States declined slightly (-0.7%) in February following an increase of 11.3% in January. The market share held by the U.S. continued to be greater than 70.0%. Imports from Japan increased 31.0% to register a record \$645 million — capturing 6.5% of the import market.

Order the February 1986 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$15/\$150).

## Coal Production and Exports

Million Tonnes



Source: Statistics Canada, Coal and Coke Statistics (45-002)

## Farm Prices of Agricultural Products

The index of farm prices of agricultural products for Canada in February 1986 was 285.1 (1971=100), 0.4% less than the January 1986 level of 286.2 and 7.3% less than the February 1985 index of 307.5. The 0.4% decrease in the overall index from January 1986 to February 1986 was due to a 1.1% drop in the total crops sub-index. The livestock and livestock products sub-index remained unchanged.

Decreases in prices for grains, oilseeds and potatoes contributed to the lower total crops sub-index in February 1986. Corn prices decreased and Western non-board grain prices continued to fall during February, causing the grains sub-index to decrease 0.9%. The oilseeds sub-index dropped 4.1% from January to February 1986 as soybean, flaxseed and canola/rapeseed prices all declined. On a year-over-year basis this index fell 18.1%.

Increased hog, egg and lamb prices were offset by lower prices for cattle and poultry, causing the total livestock and livestock products sub-index to remain at the January 1986 level. The February 1986 cattle sub-index decreased 3.4% from February 1985 while the hog sub-index declined 2.2% from a year earlier.

Provincially, the February indexes in Nova Scotia and British Columbia were higher than those in January — reflecting higher livestock and egg prices — while all other provinces had lower or unchanged indexes:

● Prince Edward Island	-2.3%;
● Nova Scotia	0.2%;
● New Brunswick	-2.9%;
● Quebec	-0.4%;
● Ontario	-0.3%;
● Manitoba	0.0%;
● Saskatchewan	-0.3%;
● Alberta	0.9%;
● British Columbia	0.5%.

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

## New Housing Price Index

The New Housing Price Index (1981=100) for Canada stood at 100.6 in February, up 1.2% from its January level of 99.4, continuing an upward movement which has now been evident for the last eight months. This index of Canadian housing contractors' selling prices stands 5.9% higher than the year-earlier level of 95.0. Between February 1986 and January 1986, the estimated house only index increased 1.5% to 104.0, while the estimated land only index increased 0.8% to 95.4.

Between February 1986 and January 1986 the largest increase noted in the price index was for Windsor (2.9%), followed by Toronto (2.4%), Kitchener (2.1%), Edmonton (1.8%), Saint John — Moncton (1.5%), London (1.4%), Hamilton (1.2%), Regina (1.2%) and Calgary (1.0%). Lesser gains were registered in Montreal (0.8%), Quebec City (0.5%), Winnipeg (0.5%), St. John's (0.4%), Victoria (0.4%), Ottawa — Hull (0.3%), Vancouver (0.3%), St. Catharines — Niagara (0.2%), Halifax (0.1%) and Saskatoon (0.1%).

Contractors' selling prices continued to exhibit large 12 month increases in Southern Ontario cities due to strong demand for new houses, coupled with increased prices for materials and a shortage of skilled tradespersons. Significant yearly increases, in excess of 10%, were recorded in Kitchener (17.3%), St. Catharines — Niagara (14.9%), Windsor (14.3%) and London (10.7%). Increases were also noted in Calgary (9.9%), Toronto (9.8%), Hamilton (9.3%), Edmonton (7.9%), Saint John — Moncton (6.2%), Montreal (5.9%), Quebec City (5.7%) and Winnipeg (5.5%). Only in Victoria (-5.0%) and Vancouver (-1.9%) were prices below the level of 12 months ago.

Order the first quarter 1986 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60).

## Farm Cash Receipts

Farm cash receipts for the January-February 1986 period were estimated at \$3,769.5 million, a decrease of 12.0% from the level of \$4,284.4 million for the corresponding period in 1985.

During the latest period, receipts from the sale of field crops totalled \$2,064.9 million, a 21.4% decline from the 1985 level of \$2,625.8 million. Lower Canadian Wheat Board participation payments for wheat and barley, and lower liquidations of deferred grain receipts were the main reasons for the drop. Of the major field crops, wheat, barley, rye, flaxseed and soybean receipts increased in spite of lower prices. Receipts for oats, rapeseed, corn and potatoes declined, mainly because of lower prices. Tobacco receipts declined significantly because of delays in beginning the flue-cured tobacco auction in Ontario.

Total livestock receipts for the January-February period were \$1,548.3 million, down 1.0% from \$1,564.6 million in 1985. Increased receipts for cattle and dairy products partly compensated for the lower receipts for calves, hogs, poultry and eggs.

Other cash receipts for this period went to \$156.3 million in 1986 from \$94.0 million in 1985, an increase of 66.3%.

Order the January-February 1986 issue of *Farm Cash Receipts* (21-001, \$7/\$70).



1010718387

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED APRIL 11 - 17

Catalogue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
---------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------

**AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES**

Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry, January 1986  
Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, March 1986  
Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, March 1, 1986

23-003	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
32-012	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
32-010	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90

**ECONOMETRIC ANALYSIS**

Quarterly Economic Summary: Statistical Supplement, April 1986  
Quarterly Economic Summary, April 1986

13-007E	\$25/\$100	\$26/\$104
13-006	\$25/\$100	\$26/\$104

**HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS**

Fuel Consumption Survey - Passenger Cars, Light Trucks and Vans, April-June 1985  
Income Distributions by Size in Canada, 1984  
The Labour Force, March 1986

53-007	(No charge)	
13-207	\$38	\$39.50
71-001	\$20/\$200	\$21.50/\$215

**INDUSTRY**

Coal and Coke Statistics, December 1985  
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers, February 1986  
Gas Utilities, December 1985  
Gas Utilities - Transport and Distribution Systems, 1984  
Gypsum Products, February 1986  
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation, February 1986  
New Motor Vehicle Sales, January 1986  
Oils and Fats, January 1986  
Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder, February 1986  
Production, Sales and Stocks of Major Appliances, February 1986  
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, January 1986  
Retail Trade, January 1986  
Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances, February 1986  
The Sugar Situation, February 1986

45-002	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
36-004	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
55-002	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
57-205	\$20	\$21
44-003	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
44-004	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
63-007	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
32-006	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
32-024	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
43-010	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
35-003	\$6/\$60	\$7/\$70
63-005	\$14/\$140	\$15/\$150
43-003	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
32-013	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50

**INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE**

Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act, Report for 1983 Part 1 - Corporations  
Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act, Report for 1983 Part 11 - Labour Unions  
Corporation Financial Statistics - Preliminary Data on Matched Corporations, 1984

61-210	\$50	\$60
71-202	\$25	\$26
61-207P	\$10	\$11

**INTERNATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS**

Security Transactions with Non-residents, December 1985

67-002	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
--------	------------	------------

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

Imports by Commodities, January 1986

65-007	\$50/\$500	\$60/\$600
--------	------------	------------

**LABOUR**

Unemployment Insurance Statistics, January 1986

73-001	\$12/\$120	\$13/\$130
--------	------------	------------

**PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

Federal Government Employment in Metropolitan Areas, September 1985

72-205	\$20	\$21
--------	------	------

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK**

Building Permits, December 1985  
Construction Statistics, Vol. 9, No. 2: Quarterly Investment in Housing, 1985  
Investment Statistics - Manufacturing Sub-industries and Selected Energy Related Industries, Intentions 1986

64-001	\$20/\$200	\$21/\$210
64-003	\$5/\$30	\$6/\$36
61-214	\$10	\$11

**SERVICES**

Cable Television, 1984

56-205	\$22	\$23
--------	------	------

**STANDARDS**

Canadian Standard Industrial Classification for Companies and Enterprises, 1980

12-570E	\$50	\$72
---------	------	------

**TRANSPORTATION**

Air Carrier Operations in Canada, October-December 1984  
Railway Carloadings, 7-day Period Ending March 21, 1986  
Railway Carloadings, February 1986

51-002	\$29/\$116	\$30/\$120
52-005	\$75	\$100
52-001	\$7.50/\$75	\$8.50/\$85

These publications can be purchased by writing to Publication Sales and Services (613-993-7276), Room 2103, Main Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6. Please enclose cheque or money order payable to the Receiver General for Canada and provide full information on publications required (number, title, issue).

Publications can also be ordered through Statistics Canada's offices in St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Sturgeon Falls, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver, or from bookstore agents or other booksellers.