

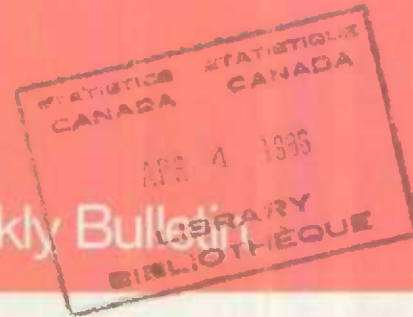


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Weekly Bulletin



April 4, 1986

Employment, Earnings and Hours

Preliminary data for January 1986 showed an estimated 8,876.8 thousand employees at the Canada industrial aggregate level, a decrease of 9.5 thousand (-0.1%) from December 1985. There was little or no change at the industry level. Employment decreased in Quebec, Saskatchewan and British Columbia and increased in Newfoundland, Ontario and Alberta while all other provinces and territories showed little or no change.

Average weekly earnings at the Canada industrial aggregate level increased from \$424.32 in December to \$427.59 in January. Increases were noted in all industries with the exception of trade which decreased and services and public administration which remained virtually unchanged. Average weekly earnings in all provinces increased except Newfoundland which decreased and the Yukon and Northwest Territories which showed little or no change.

Order the January 1986 issue of **Employment, Earnings and Hours** (72-002, \$35/\$350), or contact J. Beauregard or R. Arsenault (613-990-9900), Labour Division.

Foreign Trade in Automotive Products

Canada posted a \$5.0 billion trade surplus with the United States in automotive products in 1985, a decline of \$970 million from the record surplus set the previous year. The surplus marks the fourth consecutive year of a positive balance following nine years of deficits.

The expansion in exports of automotive products moderated to 13.2% to reach \$33.8 billion following an increase of 42.9% in 1984. A 16.8% rise in exports of cars - representing 55.5% of the total increase - was the major contributing factor. Parts posted an 11.9% rise.

Imports of automotive products rose 20.6% to \$28.8 billion after an increase of 35.2% in 1984. As in exports, cars accounted for more than 50.0% of the increase, rising 40.3%. Parts increased 12.9%, similar to the rise in exports.

The trade deficit in automotive products with countries other than the United States reached a record \$4.1 billion in 1985. Imports grew 28.6%, as cars jumped 51.0% after a 36.5% advance in 1984. Exports

(continued on page 2, col. 2)

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings(\$)	Jan.*	427.59	424.32	3.9
Labour Income (\$ million)	Dec.	21,130.4	21,281.8	6.9
Persons with Jobs (million)	Feb.	11.25	11.20	4.4
Unemployed	Feb.	1,341,000	1,347,000	-7.8

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Jan.*	3,580.3	3,536.6	18.9
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)	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)	Dec.*	4,858	60,738	5.8
Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)	Dec.	44,491	446,412	5.1
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	14,533	-0.1

SALES

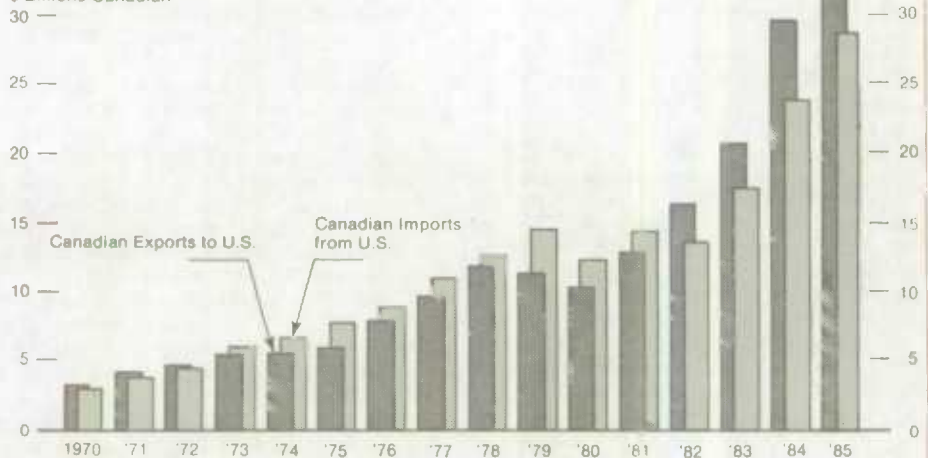
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Jan.*	762.7	762.7	10.2
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Dec.	19,798.4	242,862.7	7.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	1,339.9	1,339.9	17.5
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	9,687.4	9,687.4	11.9

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* - new this week.

Canada—United States Trade in Automotive Products

\$ Billions Canadian



Source: Statistics Canada, Daily Bulletin (11-001E)

Industrial Product Price Index

Preliminary estimates show the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1981=100) stood at 120.5 in February 1986, down 0.2% from the revised level of 120.7 for January. The year-over-year advance, calculated by comparing the level for February 1986 with the level for February 1985, was 2.4%. Following the increase recorded in January, the annual rate of change returned in February to a level comparable to the average for the fourth quarter of 1985. The monthly 0.2% decrease stemmed from declines in both intermediate goods (-0.2%) and finished goods (-0.2%).

The first stage intermediate goods component index fell 0.4% in February to a level 0.4% lower than in February 1985. The monthly decline in the group index was mainly attributable to lower prices for copper and copper alloy products, other non-ferrous metal products and petroleum and coal products. These decreases were partly offset by higher prices for aluminum products. The primary copper products index dropped 4.0% in February, largely as a result of a 4.3% decrease in the price of copper refinery shapes. The primary refined non-ferrous metals index was off 1.9%, chiefly because of a 2.9% decline in the price of zinc refinery shapes. The aluminum products index rose 5.5% in February. According to preliminary estimates, the petroleum and coal products index decreased by 1.4% to a level 0.4% lower than a year earlier.

The second stage intermediate goods index edged down 0.1% in February, but remained 2.5% above its February 1985 level. The main factors in the group index's monthly change were lower prices for meat products, newsprint and other paper stock, and petroleum and coal products, partly offset by higher prices for sugar.

The finished foods and feeds index slid 0.1% in February, but was still 3.4% higher than a year ago. The key factors in the group index's movement for the month were meat products, sugar and miscellaneous food products. In addition to the 5.4% drop in prices for cuts of beef, decreases were noted for chicken (-1.1%) and turkey prices (-4.6%) in February.

The capital equipment index declined 0.1% in February, but remained 3.3% above its level of a year before. Most of the monthly decrease stemmed from lower prices for passenger cars and trucks, which in turn were due primarily to the impact of the lower U.S. exchange rate on export prices. Passenger car prices were down 6.6%, as export prices of sub-compact and compact/intermediate cars posted the largest declines. Truck prices fell 0.3%, largely because of lower export prices for light trucks.

The index for all other finished goods edged down 0.2% in February, but remained 2.9% higher than a year earlier. The decrease in the group index was mainly due to lower prices for passenger car, truck and bus products and petroleum and coal products.

Order the February 1986 issue of **Industry Price Indexes** (62-011, \$15/\$150).

Infomat

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... Foreign Trade in Automotive Products

registered a 13.4% decline in 1985 after an 8.6% increase in 1984. The movement was largely explained by a 79.4% decline in cars following a 40.8% increase in 1984.

The number of passenger cars imported rose 23.9% to 1.1 million units in 1985. Overseas countries increased their share of the import market by 15.1% to 35.0%. The U.S. share dropped to 65.0% in 1985 from close to 70.0% in 1984.

The average price of imported cars rose 15.6% in 1985; the price increase reflected changes in the size of car imported, the type of car, and exchange rates as well as inflationary pressures. The average price of cars from the United States rose 21.7% while the price from overseas countries rose 6.0%.

Contact G. Blaney (613-990-9647), Trade Information Unit.

Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production

Preliminary figures show production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons for December 1985 increased 3.9% from the previous year to 8 113.2 thousand cubic metres.

Exports advanced 38.0% from December 1984 to 2 695.0 thousand cubic metres while imports climbed 33.0% to 1 868.3 thousand cubic metres. Canadian refinery receipts of crude oil increased 3.9% to 7 266.9 thousand cubic metres.

Preliminary figures show net withdrawals of natural gas in December 1985 increased 5.8% from a year earlier, totalling 10 344.8 million cubic metres.

Exports of natural gas in December 1985 reached 2 994.4 million cubic metres, up 14.9% from the previous year, while sales in Canada increased 6.3% to 5 852.3 million cubic metres.

Order the December 1985 issue of **Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production** (26-006, \$8/\$80).

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in January 1986 rose significantly for the second consecutive month, resulting in a 16.4% advance over the same period in 1985. Revised sales for December 1985 were up 19.3% from the December 1984 level.

In January 1986, all major trade groups registered increased sales from a year earlier. The most notable gains were reported by the following major trade groups: other machinery, equipment and supplies (+27.8%); lumber and building materials (+25.6%) and tobacco, drugs and toilet preparations (+20.7%). All regions posted sales increases from a year earlier, ranging from 25.0% in Ontario to 7.1% in the Atlantic provinces.

Wholesale inventories in January 1986 increased 6.4% over the corresponding period in 1985. Revised inventories for December 1985 were up 4.3% from the December 1984 level.

The ratio of inventories to sales at the end of January 1986 stood at 1.72:1, down from 1.88:1 a year earlier.

Order the January 1986 issue of **Wholesale Trade** (63-008, \$5/\$50).

Department Store Sales and Stocks

Department stores in Canada reported unadjusted sales totalling \$762.7 million in January 1986, up 10.2% from the January 1985 level. Sales were higher in 30 of the 40 departments for which information is compiled, with the largest increases reported in floor coverings (+50.3%), china and glassware (+38.4%) and women's and misses' sportswear (+24.8%). The most notable decreases were recorded for millinery (-36.4%), smallwares and notions (-16.1%) and sporting goods and luggage (-8.1%).


All provinces posted gains in January 1986 over the corresponding month in 1985, with increases ranging from 12.7% in Ontario to 5.1% in Saskatchewan. Sales also rose in all 10 metropolitan areas surveyed, with increases ranging from 13.9% in Toronto to 4.4% in Hamilton.

Sales by major department stores in January 1986 reached \$488.8 million, up 7.7% from the corresponding month a year earlier, while junior department stores had sales of \$273.9 million, up 14.9% over the same period last year.

Stocks

The unadjusted selling value of inventories held by department stores in January 1986 was \$3,580.3 million, up 18.9% from January 1985. Seasonally adjusted department store stocks totalled \$3,950.7 million, up 5.4% from the December 1985 revised value of \$3,748.3 million.

Order the January 1986 issue of **Department Store Sales and Stocks** (63-002, \$13/\$130), or contact Linda Di Pietro (613-991-3551).

 **june 3**
census day

Housing Starts

Housing starts for all areas in February 1986 reached a total of 181,000 dwelling units (seasonally adjusted at annual rates). This increase from the 165,000 units recorded in January resulted from a substantial rise in single family housing activity to 100,000 units in urban areas.

Order the February 1986 issue of **Housing Starts and Completions (64-002, \$15/\$150)**.

Consumer Price Index

The all-items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada (1981=100) advanced by 0.4% between January and February, reaching a level of 130.6. Six of the seven major component indexes rose while the food index fell by 0.6%. Most of the upward pressure on the all-items index resulted from advances in the indexes for housing (0.4%), clothing (1.5%) and tobacco products and alcoholic beverages (1.8%).

Seasonally adjusted, the all-items index rose by 0.2% in February compared to a rise of 0.4% in January. In the latest month, the seasonally adjusted food index fell by 1.1% while the all-items excluding food index advanced by 0.5%.

The year-to-year increase in the CPI from February 1985 to February 1986 was 4.1%, down from the 4.4% reported in each of the 12 month periods ending in December 1985 and January 1986 and near the average 4.0% rise registered for the year 1985 as a whole. The compounded annual rate based on the change in the seasonally adjusted indexes for the previous three-month period (November 1985 to February 1986) was 5.1%, down sharply from the 6.4% compounded rate based on the three-month period ending in January.

Food

On a month-to-month basis, the food index fell by 0.6% after three successive months of increases. The latest decline resulted from a fall of 0.8% in the index for food purchased from stores and a rise of 0.2% in the index for food purchased from restaurants. A large part of the decline in the former index was attributable to lower prices for fresh vegetables (-14.6%) particularly for salad-type vegetables such as celery (-21.5%), lettuce (-28.5%) and tomatoes (-27.9%) as supplies increased from the United States.

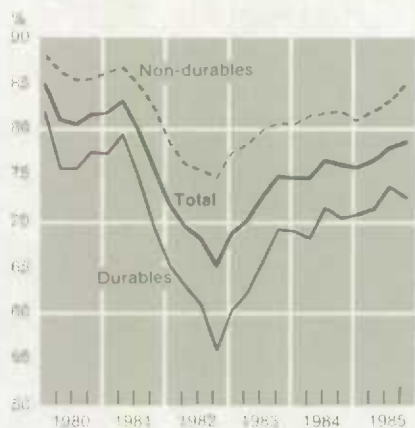
All-items excluding Food

On a month-to-month basis, the all-items excluding food index rose by 0.6% in February, up sharply from the 0.2% observed in each of the two previous months. Most of the increase resulted from advances in the housing, clothing and tobacco products and alcoholic beverages indexes. The housing index increased by 0.4%, largely due to higher costs for rented and owned accommodation.

The 1.5% increase in the clothing index was concentrated, to a large extent, in the women's wear component (2.2%) with a number of items returning to regular prices from discounted levels observed in January and with the introduction of the spring season clothing.

Order the February 1986 issue of **The Consumer Price Index (62-001, \$8/\$80)**.

Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing



Source: Statistics Canada, Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing (31-003)

Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance benefit payments totalled \$1,166 million in January 1986, up 48.2% from the preceding month but down 0.6% from January 1985. (An increase between December and January is a standard seasonal occurrence observed each year.)

During January 1986, a total of 379,000 claims for unemployment insurance benefits were received, an increase of 21.4% from December 1985 but a decrease of 3.5% as compared with January 1985.

For the week ending January 18, 1986, the number of beneficiaries stood at 1,267,000 - up 11.1% from the previous month but down 9.8% from January 1985.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, the number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits declined by 2.1% to 955,000 between December 1985 and January 1986.

Data for the months of November and December 1985 and January 1986 will be published in the January 1986 issue of **Unemployment Insurance Statistics (73-001, \$12/\$120)**, or contact H. Stiebert or J.-P. Maynard (613-990-9900), Labour Division.

Sales of Refined Petroleum Products

Preliminary figures show that in January 1986, sales of refined petroleum products in Canada amounted to 6 696 600 cubic metres, down 2.3% from a year earlier.

Sales of the main products, with the percentage change from January 1985 in brackets, were as follows: motor gasoline, 2 475 100 cubic metres (-1.8%); kerosene stove oil, 113 900 cubic metres (-18.6%); diesel fuel, 1 086 500 cubic metres (+5.8%); light fuel oil, 1 173 100 cubic metres (-17.7%) and heavy fuel oil, 626 700 cubic metres (-7.6%).

Production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners in the latest month amounted to 6 641 100 cubic metres, up 5.0% from January 1985.

Order the January 1986 issue of **Refined Petroleum Products (45-004, \$15/\$150)**.

Raw Materials Price Index

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1981=100) stood at a preliminary level of 105.5 in February 1986, down 8.6% from its revised January level of 115.4. Compared to February 1985 the RMPI was down 10.6%. The Raw Materials Price Index excluding the mineral fuels component decreased 1.0% over the month to stand at a level 1.0% higher than a year ago. Of the seven components making up the Raw Materials Price Index, four registered decreases, two increased and one showed no change between January and February 1986. The most significant change was the estimated 16.1% decrease registered by the mineral fuels component - this accounted for almost all (8.2%) of the total 8.6% decrease in the Raw Materials Price Index.

The mineral fuels component fell 16.1% in February to a level 21.1% lower than in February 1985. The major factor for the lower index level was an estimated 18.8% decrease in crude oil prices.

While the vegetable products component was 3.0% lower in February than in January the index remains 0.4% higher than its level of a year ago. Fresh vegetables (excluding potatoes) were down 14.6% in February, with significant decreases being registered for carrots, cabbages and tomatoes.

The animal and animal products component index decreased 0.9% in February and was 1.7% lower than its year-earlier level. Cattle prices were down 5.3% in February and decreased 7.2% from a year ago. A 1.4% decrease was registered for the non-ferrous metals component index. Copper prices were down 4.4%; however, the copper index was still 9.1% higher than its year-earlier level. Precious metals were down 3.9% in February but were still 10.2% higher than in February 1985.

Order the February 1986 issue of **Industry Price Indexes (62-011, \$15/\$150)**.

Sales of Natural Gas

During January 1986, sales of natural gas by main distributors amounted to 6 200 231 thousand cubic metres, a 2.1% decrease from the level recorded the previous year.

On the basis of rate structure information, sales in the latest month were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from January 1985 in brackets: residential sales, 1 992 573 thousand cubic metres (-2.4%); commercial sales, 1 582 043 thousand cubic metres (-6.5%) and industrial sales, 2 625 615 thousand cubic metres (0.9%).

Order the January 1986 issue of **Gas Utilities (55-002, \$10/\$100)**.

Gas Utilities

Sales of natural gas in Canada amounted to 5 848 million cubic metres in December 1985, an increase of 6.3% from 5 504 million cubic metres a year earlier.

Reported exports to the United States reached 2 994 million cubic metres during December 1985, a 14.8% increase from 2 607 million cubic metres the previous year.

Order the December 1985 issue of **Gas Utilities (55-002, \$10/\$100)**.



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The Dairy Review, January 1986
Wool Production and Supply, 1985

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23-205	\$15	\$16

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Salaries and Salary Scales of Full-time Teaching Staff at Canadian Universities, 1985-86

81-210	\$20	\$21
81-258P	\$15	\$16

INDUSTRY

Asphalt Roofing, January 1986
Canada's Mineral Production, Preliminary Estimates, 1985
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables, December 1985
Department Store Monthly Sales, by Province and Selected Metropolitan Area, January 1986
Electric Lamps (Light Bulbs and Tubes), February 1986
Footwear Statistics, January 1986
Merchandising Inventories, December 1985
Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, February 1986
Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard, January 1986
Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder, January 1986
Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada, January 1986
Production and Shipments of Blow-Moulded Plastic Bottles, Quarter Ended December 31, 1985
Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, January 1986
Refined Petroleum Products, December 1985
Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances, January 1986
Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, January 1986

45-001	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
26-202	\$20	\$21
32-011	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
63-004	\$2/\$20	\$3/\$30
43-009	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
33-002	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
63-014	\$12/\$120	\$13/\$130
32-001	\$2/\$20	\$3/\$30
36-003	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
32-024	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
47-004	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
47-006	\$5/\$20	\$6/\$24
25-001	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
45-004	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
43-003	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
41-006	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50

INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS

Gross Domestic Product by Industry, December 1985

61-005	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
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INTERNATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS

Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, October-December 1985

66-001	\$35/\$140	\$36.50/\$146
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INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Summary of Canadian International Trade, January 1986

65-001	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
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LABOUR

Employment, Earnings and Hours, December 1985

72-002	\$35/\$350	\$36.50/\$365
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LABOUR AND HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS ANALYSIS

Family Characteristics and Labour Force Activity: Annual Averages, 1977-1984

71-533	\$33	\$34.50
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PRICES

Consumer Price Index, February 1986
Consumer Prices and Price Indexes, October-December 1985
Farm Input Price Index, Fourth Quarter 1985
Industrial Product Price Indexes, 1981 = 100, Concepts and Methods
Industry Price Indexes, January 1986

62-001	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
62-010	\$15/\$60	\$16.50/\$66
62-004	\$10/\$40	\$11/\$44
62-556	\$25	\$26.50
62-011	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK

Construction Statistics Service Bulletin, Vol. 9, No. 1:
Annual Expenditures in Housing
Federal Scientific Activities, 1985-86
Science Statistics, Vol. 10, No. 3: Federal
Government Expenditures on Scientific Activities, 1986-87

64-003	\$5/\$30	\$6/\$36
88-204E	\$30	\$31
88-001	\$6/\$60	\$7/\$70

SERVICES

Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics, December 1985
Telephone Statistics, January 1986

63-011	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
56-002	\$7.50/\$75	\$8.50/\$85

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Railway Transport in Canada, 1984

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