

informat

Weekly Bulletin

May 2, 1986

Raw Materials Price Index

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1981=100) stood at a preliminary level of 95.3 in March 1986, down 9% from its revised February level of 104.7. Compared to March 1985 the RMPI was down 19.6%. The Raw Materials Price Index excluding the mineral fuels component increased 0.7% over the month and now stands at a level 1.4% higher than a year ago.

The mineral fuels component (estimated from preliminary data) fell 20.2% in March 1986 to a level 38.2% lower than March 1985. The major factor for the lower index level was a 24.5% decrease in crude oil prices. The estimated crude oil index in March was 44% lower than its March 1985 level. (These March estimates will be confirmed or revised with the release of the May 1986 data.)

A 3.6% increase was registered for the non-ferrous metals component index in March. Copper prices were up 3.3% to a level 11.5% higher than a year earlier. Precious metal prices increased 3%, and are now 14.6% higher than in March 1985. The other base metals index climbed 7.9% during the month.

The vegetable products component index increased 1.2% in March, though this index remains 1.1% below its March 1985 level. Unrefined sugar posted an increase of 18.7% and is now 32.7% higher than a year ago. The index for vegetables other than potatoes was up 1.6%; while carrots, onions and cabbages registered price decreases, these

(continued on page 2, col. 2)

Employment, Earnings and Hours

Preliminary data for February 1986 showed an estimated 8,872.5 thousand employees at the Canada industrial aggregate level, a decrease of 9.6 thousand (-0.1%) from January 1986. There was little or no change at the industry level. Employment declined in Nova Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia.

Average weekly earnings at the Canada industrial aggregate level decreased to \$427.95 in February from \$428.93 in January. Declines were noted in mining and finance, insurance and real estate.

Order the February 1986 issue of Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002, \$35/\$350), Contact: R. Arsenault (613-990-9900), Labour Division.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

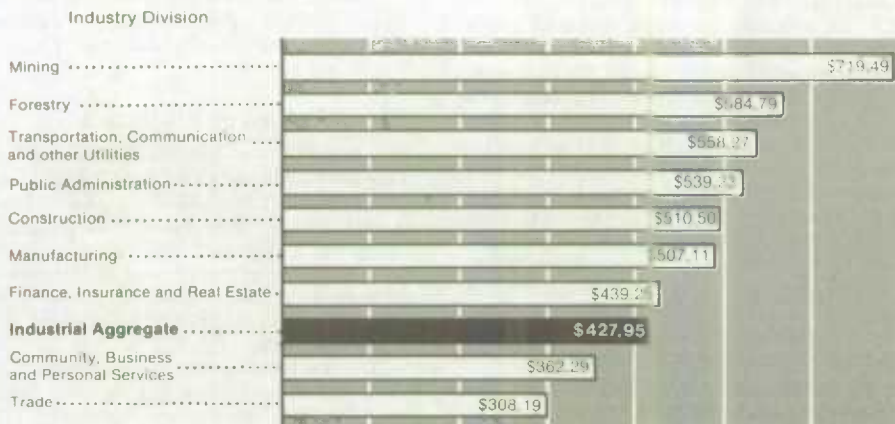
| | | | Previous Month | % Change From Year Ago |
|--|-------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|
| EMPLOYMENT, INCOME | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings (\$) | Feb.* | 427.95 | 428.93 | 3.7 |
| Labour Income (\$ million) | Jan. | 20,891.3 | 21,111.7 | 7.1 |
| Persons with Jobs (million) | 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) | Feb. | 34,982.5 | 34,421.0 | 2.9 |
| ORDERS | | | | |
| Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million) | Feb. | 20,631.1 | 20,597.8 | 11.1 |
| Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million) | Feb. | 24,703.2 | 24,191.4 | 5.0 |
| PRICES | | | | |
| Consumer Price Index (1981=100) | Mar. | 130.9 | 130.6 | 4.1 |
| New House Price Index (1981=100) | Feb. | 100.6 | 99.4 | 5.9 |
| Raw Materials Price Index (1981=100) | Mar.* | 95.3 | 104.7 | -19.6 |
| Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas | Mar.* | 103.2 | 102.5 | 1.4 |
| Industrial Product Price Index (1981=100) | Mar.* | 119.9 | 120.4 | 1.3 |
| CONSTRUCTION | | | | |
| Building Permits (\$ million) | Jan. | 943.3 | 943.3 | 21.8 |
| Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units) | Mar.* | 8,517 | 25,988 | 23.7 |
| ENERGY | | | | |
| Coal Production (thousand tonnes) | Jan. | 5,596 | 5,596 | 4.7 |
| Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours) | Feb.* | 41,407 | 86,921 | 5.3 |
| Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres) | Dec. | 10,345 | 96,418 | 7.1 |
| Petroleum Refining (thousand cubic metres) | Feb. | 6,765 | 14,413 | 7.2 |
| 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) | Feb. | 696.0 | 1,458.7 | 8.9 |
| Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million) | Feb. | 20,119.2 | 40,221.9 | 9.1 |
| 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.

Average Weekly Earnings in Canadian Industry

February 1986*



Source: Statistics Canada, Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002)

* Preliminary Estimates

Canada

Industrial Product Price Index

Preliminary estimates show the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1981=100) stood at 119.9 in March 1986, down 0.4% from the revised level of 120.4 for February. The year-over-year advance, calculated by comparing the level for March 1986 with the level for March 1985, was 1.3%, the smallest 12-month movement since May 1971. The monthly change of -0.4% stemmed primarily from an estimated 5.7% drop in the prices of petroleum and coal products, which was the main stimulus for decreases in both intermediate and finished goods.

The first stage intermediate goods index edged up 0.1% in March, but remained 0.7% lower than in March 1985. The increase for the month was chiefly attributable to higher prices for aluminum products and copper and copper alloy products, largely offset by lower prices for petroleum and coal products. Primary copper products rose by 3.1%, mostly as a result of a 3.2% jump in the prices of copper refinery shapes. Aluminum products also gained 3.1%. According to preliminary estimates, petroleum and coal products plunged by 5.7% to a level 5.9% lower than a year earlier.

The second stage intermediate goods index was down 0.4% in March 1986, but remained 1.4% above its March 1985 level. The main factors in the index's monthly change were lower prices for petroleum and coal products, partly offset by higher prices for sugar, lumber and timber and other non-ferrous metal products. Refined sugar increased by 7.1% to a level 17.5% higher than a year earlier. Lumber jumped 8.0% in the month, primarily in response to an 8.2% increase in softwood lumber prices. Non-ferrous refinery shapes were up 0.4% in March.

The finished foods and feeds index advanced 0.2% in March to a level 3.0% higher than in March 1985. The key factors in the component index's movement for the month were price changes for meat products, dairy products, fruit and vegetable preparations, sugar and miscellaneous food products. Meat products edged down 0.3%, chiefly owing to price decreases of 3.7% for chicken, 2.4% for cured meat and 0.7% for pork, partly offset by a 1.0% increase in beef prices. Processed dairy products posted a 0.4% gain.

The capital equipment index was unchanged in March, but remained 2.2% above the level recorded a year before.

The index for all other finished goods (personal expenditure excluding food, and public expenditure) dropped 1.5% in March, but was still 1.0% higher than in March 1985. This was largely attributable to lower prices for petroleum and coal products, manufactured tobacco and cigarettes, and motor vehicles. Manufactured tobacco and cigarettes fell 0.8%, primarily as a result of a 0.8% decline in cigarette prices. Passenger cars, trucks and buses were down 0.2%, mainly because of the effect that a 0.5% rise in the Canadian dollar (or a 0.5% decrease in the U.S. dollar's exchange rate in Canadian currency) had on export prices.

Order the March 1986 issue of Industry Price Indexes (62-011, \$15/\$150), or contact: the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-990-9606/7), Prices Division.



... Raw Materials Price Index

were more than offset by price increases for tomatoes and cucumbers. Higher apple prices were the major factor for a 3.1% increase in the fresh fruit index. These price increases were offset somewhat by decreases registered for grains, down 0.4%, and oilseeds, down 1.6%.

The animal and animal products component index decreased 0.5%, mainly because of a 5.2% drop in hog prices. The index for cattle and calves was up 1.7% in March, but was still 6.1% lower than its year-earlier level.

Order the March 1986 issue of Industry Price Indexes (62-011, \$15/\$150), or contact: the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-990-9606/7), Prices Division.

Enrolment of Community Colleges

Preliminary data indicate that in the fall of 1985 a total of 320,200 students were enrolled full-time in the postsecondary programs of Canadian community colleges and related institutions. This represents little change from preliminary counts reported for the fall of 1984. Of those students, 222,850 were enrolled in career/technical programs, a decrease of 1% from the fall of 1984. Enrolment in university transfer programs, at 97,350 was 2% higher than in the previous year.

Total full-time postsecondary enrolment decreased by 3.0% in Ontario and by 23.0% in the Northwest Territories, remained unchanged in Quebec and Prince Edward Island and increased in all other provinces, ranging from 1.0% in Nova Scotia to 22.0% in the Yukon.

Full-time enrolment in career/technical programs decreased from the fall of 1984 in the Northwest Territories (-26.5%), Ontario (-3.0%) and Quebec (-2.5%). Enrolment stayed at the same level in Prince Edward Island while increasing in the remaining provinces - ranging from 1.0% (Nova Scotia) to 32.5% (Yukon).

Contact: R. Belanger or R. Lortie (613-991-1526/1525), Postsecondary Education Section, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

Electric Power Statistics

Net generation of electricity in Canada in February 1986 increased by 7.3% to 41 407 gigawatt hours from 38 595 gigawatt hours a year earlier. Exports of electric power increased 17.4% to 2 986 gigawatt hours from 2 544 gigawatt hours and imports increased by 102.4% to 377 gigawatt hours from the February 1985 level of 186 gigawatt hours.

During 1986-to-date, the net generation of electricity totalled 86 921 gigawatt hours, up 5.3% from the January-February 1985 level of 82 575 gigawatt hours. Exports of electricity rose 19.8% to 6 646 gigawatt hours from 5 545 gigawatt hours and

Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance benefits totalled \$956 million in February 1986, down 18.0% from a month earlier and 3.3% from February 1985. For January-February 1986, unemployment insurance benefitbursements amounted to \$2,123 million, a decrease of 1.8% from the same period in 1985.

During February 1986, a sum of 216,000 claims for unemployment insurance benefits were received, down 43.0% from the previous month and 9.1% from February 1985. For the first two months of 1986, a total of 596,000 claims were received, a decline of 5.6% as compared with the same period in 1985.

For the week ending February 15, 1986, the number of beneficiaries stood at 1,265,000 - down 0.2% from a month earlier and 9.9% from February 1985.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, the number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits declined 1.4% between January and February 1986 to 940,000.

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

Canadian Homicide Statistics

A total of 689 homicide offences (victims) were reported in Canada in 1985, up 3.3% from the 667 recorded in 1984. Preliminary data released by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics show that of the homicides reported in 1985, 639 (92.7%) were classified by the police as murders, 43 (6.2%) as manslaughters and 7 (1.0%) as infanticides.

The greatest number of homicide offences were in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. These provinces accounted for 75.0% of Canada's total homicide offences reported in 1985.

From 1984 to 1985, Alberta showed the highest percentage increase (+16.7%) in the total number of homicide offences among the provinces, while Manitoba experienced the largest percentage decline in total homicide offences (-51.2%).

In addition to the increase in the total number of homicide offences in Canada from 1984 to 1985, an increase in the total homicide rate per 100,000 population was also observed (to 2.72 from 2.65).

With the exception of Nova Scotia, Quebec, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the total homicide rate in each province during 1985 was less than the national homicide rate of 2.72 per 100,000 population.

Contact: Joanne Lacroix (613-990-6643), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

imports rose 31.6% to 519 gigawatt hours from 394 gigawatt hours.

Order the February 1986 issue of Electric Power Statistics (57-001, \$8/\$80), available the third week of May. Contact: Dave Madsen (613-991-3585), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product in 1971 prices advanced 0.6% in February 1986 from the January level. Service-producing industries advanced 0.7% in February. Output of goods-producing industries rose 0.5%, following a decline in January and no growth in December.

Almost two-thirds of the gain in the service-producing industries originated with telephone systems and with wholesale trade which partially recovered from a large decline in January. In addition to wholesalers of motor vehicles and parts, and miscellaneous machinery and equipment, wholesalers of lumber and building materials and "miscellaneous" wholesalers also recorded strong advances in the month, following decreases in output in January. For the second consecutive month the large increase in output in telephone systems resulted from an increase in long distance service. Other service-producing industries recording growth in February included truck transport and air transport. In both cases the advance in February exceeded the output decrease in January.

An advance of 1% in manufacturing output accounted for most of the growth in the goods-producing industries in February. Within manufacturing most of the increase was for durable goods manufacturers including motor vehicle manufacturers, and machinery and equipment producers of miscellaneous machinery, electrical industrial equipment and communication equipment. In spite of the increase in output of motor vehicle manufacturers in February, output remains almost 8% below its average level of the August to November 1985 period, the first four months of production for the new model year.

A number of output declines were reported in February in mining - iron, potash and coal mines and mining services all decreased.

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

Local Government Employment

Employment in local governments (including hospitals, local school boards and government enterprises) numbered 865,161 as of December 1985, an overall increase of 12,523 (1.5%) from December 1984. General government employees (including hospitals and local school boards) increased by 11,090 (1.4%) from the 807,095 reported in December 1984 and those in government enterprises (including electric power, public transit, telephone and gas distribution systems) increased by 1,433 (3.1%) from the 45,543 reported in December 1984.

The local government gross payroll (including overtime and retroactive payments) for October-December 1985 totalled \$5,840.5 million, an increase of \$364.8 million (6.7%) from the corresponding quarter in 1984.

The October-December 1985 issue of Local Government Employment (72-009, \$10/\$40), or contact M. Fathy or C. Doucet (613-991-1843/6), Public Institutions Division.

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Housing Starts

Seasonally adjusted housing starts in March were down marginally to 164,000 units from a revised level of 170,000 units in February. Although starts for both single and multiple dwelling units registered declines, activity remained strong compared to the same period last year.

Order the March 1986 issue of Housing Starts and Completions (64-002, \$15/\$150). Contact: P. Pichette (613-990-9689), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

Crime Statistics

Criminal Code offences reported by police forces in 1985 increased 1.3% to 2,175,940 from 2,147,697 in 1984. The Canada crime rate (number of Criminal Code offences per 100,000 population) increased 0.4% to 8,581 in 1985 from 8,548 the previous year.

Violent offences, totalling 189,924 or 8.7% of total Criminal Code offences, increased by 5.9% in 1985. The violent crime rate per 100,000 population increased 4.9% between 1984 (714) and 1985 (749). Historically, assaults have accounted for the vast majority (over 70%) of offences within the crimes of violence category.

Property crime offences increased slightly (0.1%) from 1,408,663 in 1984 to 1,409,833 in 1985. This category continues to account for approximately two out of every three Criminal Code offences. In terms of rates per 100,000 population, the property crime rate decreased 0.8% between 1984 (5,607) and 1985 (5,560).

In 1985, a total of 57,645 narcotic/drug offences were reported by the police, up 4.9% from 1984 (54,950). The rate for narcotic/drug offences per 100,000 population in Canada rose from 219 in 1984 to 227 in 1985, an increase of 3.7%.

For further information contact: A.S. de Silva (613-990-6642) or R. Allen (613-990-6634), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in February 1986 rose significantly for the third consecutive month, resulting in a 16.7% advance over the same period in 1985. Revised sales for January 1986 were up 16.0% from the January 1985 level.

In February 1986, all major trade groups registered increased sales from a year earlier. The most notable gains were reported by the following major trade groups: tobacco, drugs and toilet preparations (+28.0%); lumber and building materials (+27.0%); and other machinery, equipment and supplies (+25.4%). All regions posted sales increases from a year earlier, ranging from 23.7% in Ontario to 2.4% in the Atlantic provinces.

Cumulative sales by wholesale merchants for the first two months of 1986 were up 16.4% over the January-February 1985 period.

Inventories

Wholesale inventories in February 1986 increased by 8.2% over the corresponding period in 1985, the same rate as in January 1986.

The ratio of inventories to sales at the end of February 1986 stood at 1.76:1, down from 1.90:1 a year earlier.

Order the February 1986 issue of Wholesale Trade (63-008, \$5/\$50), or contact Gilles Berniquez (613-991-3537), Wholesale Trade Section, Industry Division.

Railway Carloadings

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada totalled 19.7 million tonnes in March 1986, a decrease of 1.9% from the previous year. Railway carriers received an additional 1.1 million tonnes from the United States, a decrease of 15.0% from March 1985.

Total loadings in Canada for the year-to-date increased 2.8% from the 1985 period, while receipts from United States connections decreased by 1.7%.

Order the March 1986 issue of Railway Carloadings (52-001, \$7.50/\$75). For seasonally adjusted revenue freight loadings, contact the Rail Unit (613-990-8700), Transportation Division.

Family Expenditure in Canada

The average total expenditure of families and unattached individuals living in 17 Canadian cities increased by 11% between 1982 and 1984 to \$32,654 from \$29,353. Over the same period, average family income increased 8%.

Between 1982 and 1984 expenditures on maintenance, additions and renovations to owner-occupied dwellings advanced 34%. Expenditures on household appliances increased by 30%. Recreation expenditures showed considerable ups and downs: expenditures on video-tape recorders and on computer equipment more than doubled; on the other hand purchases of recreational vehicles, electronic-equipment components, and records and audio tapes were much lower than in 1982.

For information currently available contact the Statistics Canada reference centres or Tom Greenberg (613-990-9781), Family Expenditure Surveys Section, Household Surveys Division.



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AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES

| | | | |
|--|--------|------------|------------|
| The Dairy Review, February 1986 | 23-001 | \$10/\$100 | \$11/\$110 |
| Field Group Reporting Series, Vol.65, No.3: Stocks of Canadian Grain, March 31, 1986 | 22-002 | \$7/\$48 | \$8/\$54 |
| Grain Trade of Canada, 1984-85 | 22-201 | \$32 | \$33 |

ECONOMETRIC ANALYSIS

| | | | |
|--|--------|------------|------------|
| Current Economic Indicators, Vol.2, No.3, April 1986 | 13-005 | \$10/\$100 | \$11/\$110 |
|--|--------|------------|------------|

INDUSTRY

| | | | |
|---|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Asphalting Roofing, February 1986 | 45-001 | \$4/\$40 | \$5/\$50 |
| Electric Power Statistics, December 1985 | 57-001 | \$8/\$80 | \$9/\$90 |
| Factory Shipments of High Pressure Decorative Laminate Sheet, Quarter ended March 1986 | 47-005 | \$3/\$12 | \$4/\$16 |
| Fruit and Vegetable Preservation, Vol. 14, No. 9: Pack of Processed Plums, 1985 | 32-023 | \$6/\$100 | \$7/\$110 |
| Fruit and Vegetable Preservation, Vol.14, No.10: Pack of Canned Pears, 1985 | 32-023 | \$6/\$100 | \$7/\$110 |
| Fruit and Vegetable Preservation, Vol. 14, No. 19: Pack of Processed Blueberries, 1985 | 32-023 | \$6/\$100 | \$7/\$110 |
| Fruit and Vegetable Preservation, Vol. 14, No. 25: Pack of Processed Mixed Vegetables, 1985 | 32-023 | \$6/\$100 | \$7/\$110 |
| Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins, February 1986 | 46-002 | \$5/\$50 | \$6/\$60 |
| Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, March 1986 | 32-001 | \$2/\$20 | \$3/\$30 |
| Oils and Fats, February 1986 | 32-006 | \$4/\$40 | \$5/\$50 |
| Oil Pipe Line Transport, January 1986 | 55-001 | \$8/\$80 | \$9/\$90 |
| Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard, February 1986 | 36-003 | \$4/\$40 | \$5/\$50 |
| Primary Iron and Steel, February 1986 | 41-001 | \$4/\$40 | \$5/\$50 |
| Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, March 1986 | 32-022 | \$4/\$40 | \$5/\$50 |
| Rigid Insulating Board, February 1986 | 36-002 | \$4/\$40 | \$5/\$50 |
| Shipments of Animal and Poultry Feeds, Semi-annual Period Ended December 1985 | 32-004 | \$6/\$12 | \$7/\$14 |

INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS

| | | | |
|--|--------|------------|------------|
| Gross Domestic Product by Industry, January 1986 | 61-005 | \$10/\$100 | \$11/\$110 |
|--|--------|------------|------------|

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

| | | | |
|--|--------|------------|------------|
| Summary of Canadian International Trade, February 1986 | 65-001 | \$15/\$150 | \$16/\$160 |
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PRICES

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|---------------------------------------|--------|------------|------------|
| Industry Price Indexes, February 1986 | 62-011 | \$15/\$150 | \$16/\$160 |
|---------------------------------------|--------|------------|------------|

SERVICES

| | | | |
|--|--------|-------------|-------------|
| Cable Television, 1984 | 56-205 | \$22 | \$23 |
| Communications Service Bulletin, Vol. 16, No.1: Telecommunications Statistics, Fourth Quarter 1985 | 56-001 | \$6.50/\$39 | \$7.50/\$45 |

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK

| | | | |
|--|--------|------------|------------|
| Housing Starts and Completions, January 1986 | 64-002 | \$15/\$150 | \$16/\$160 |
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