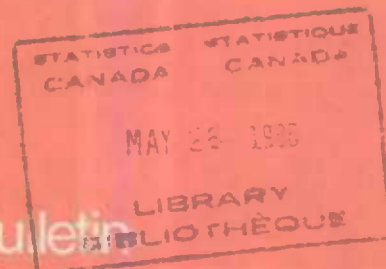


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Weekly Bulletin



May 23, 1986

Wholesale Trade

Sales

On a year-over-year basis, wholesale merchants' sales were up 7.0% in March 1986 from March 1985 but were down from the revised increase of 14.7% registered between February 1985 and February 1986.

All major trade groups registered increased sales in March from a year earlier. The most notable gain was reported by wholesalers of lumber and building materials (+25.0%). All regions except the Atlantic provinces (-1.0%) posted sales increases from March 1985.

Cumulative sales by wholesale merchants for the first three months of 1986 were up 12.2% over the January-March 1985 period. Significant gains were reported by wholesalers of lumber and building materials (+23.7%); tobacco, drugs and toilet preparation (+18.2%); motor vehicles and accessories (+16.9%); and machinery, equipment and supplies (+15.1%).

Inventories

Wholesale inventories in March 1986 increased by 9.0% over the corresponding period in 1985.

The ratio of inventories to sales at the end of March 1986 was 1.69:1, up slightly from 1.66:1 a year earlier.

Order the March 1986 issue of **Wholesale Trade** (63-008, \$5/\$50). Contact: Gilles Berniquez (613-991-3537), Wholesale Trade Section, Industry Division.

Consumer Price Index

The all-items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada rose by 0.2% between March and April to a level of 131.1 (1981=100). This moderate increase in the general price level was the same as that observed in the previous month.

On a seasonally adjusted basis the all-items index showed no change between March and April.

The year-to-year increase in the CPI between April 1985 and April 1986 was 3.9%, down from the 4.1% observed for the last two 12-month periods ending in February and March. The compounded annual rate based on the seasonally adjusted indexes for the previous three-month period (January to April) was 1.9% - the lowest this measure has been since October 1984 - and down markedly from the 3.4% compounded rate based on the three-

(continued on page 2, col. 1)

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Feb.	427.95	428.93	3.7
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.	20,853.9	20,938.5	6.6
Persons with Jobs (million)	Apr.	11.43	11.30	3.8
Unemployed	Apr.	1,303,000	1,380,000	-9.3

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Feb.	3,722.7	3,580.3	25.3
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Mar.*	34,747.1	35,110.4	0.9

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Mar.*	21,333.5	20,522.5	1.5
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Mar.*	24,898.3	24,671.7	3.4

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Apr.*	131.1	130.9	3.9
New House Price Index (1981=100)	Mar.	101.3	100.6	6.4
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)	Feb.	1,186.4	2,184.5	36.2
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	Mar.	8,517	25,988	23.7

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Feb.	4,659	10,255	-1.2
Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)	Feb.	41,407	86,921	5.3
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Jan.	9,971	9,971	-0.6
Petroleum Refining (thousand cubic metres)	Mar.*	6,855	21,278	4.3

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Mar.	9,655	29,128	0.7
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Mar.	8,633	27,113	13.9

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Mar.*	19.7	57.2	2.8
Steel (ingots - thousand tonnes)	Mar.	1,270	3,559	-0.8

SALES

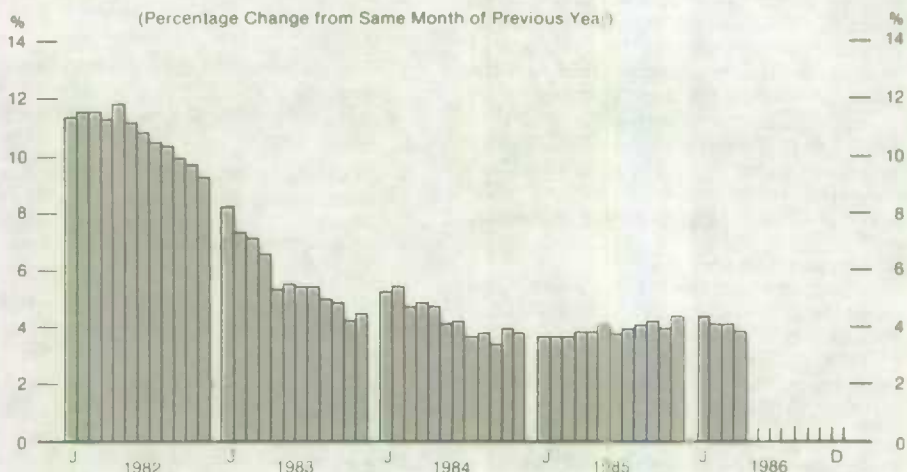
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	900.4	2,358.6	7.8
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Mar.*	21,106.8	61,251.7	6.8
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	1,826.7	4,701.1	14.8
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	9,126.6	18,758.1	11.5

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* - new this week.

Consumer Price Index for Canada (CPI)

(1981=100)



Source: Statistics Canada, The Consumer Price Index (62-001)

... Consumer Price Index

month period ending in March. This highlights the recent deceleration in consumer price increases which was mostly attributable to the decline in oil prices.

Food

Between March and April, the food index advanced by 1.1%, following an increase of 0.2% observed between February and March. The latest increase reflected an advance of 1.2% in the index for food purchased from stores and a rise of 0.5% in the index for food purchased from restaurants. A considerable part of the increase observed in the former was due to seasonally higher prices for fresh fruit and fresh vegetables. The seasonal effect was due, in part, to wholesalers shifting to higher priced imported produce as stocks of locally grown storable products approached depletion.

Over the 12-month period, April 1985 to April 1986, the food index rose by 2.6%, down slightly from the increase of 2.8% reported in the previous 12-month period ending in March.

All-items excluding Food

On a month-to-month basis, the all-items excluding food index fell by 0.1% in April, compared to a rise of 0.3% reported in March. The latest change was the result of largely counterbalancing price movements. The effect of a 1.6% decline in the transportation index, complemented by a drop of 0.3% in the clothing index, was offset to a large extent by rises of 2.3% in the tobacco products and alcoholic beverages index, 0.9% in the health and personal care index, and 0.3% in the recreation, reading and education index.

The decline of 1.6% in the transportation index was mainly due to a fall of 10.9% in gasoline prices, principally reflecting lower crude oil prices in international markets. Air fares also registered a slight seasonal decline. The transportation index was prevented from falling further than it did by higher prices for some new automobiles, vehicle repairs and maintenance, automobile insurance, and local bus transportation in four cities.

The tobacco products and alcoholic beverages index advanced by a sharp 2.3% in April, compared to a rise of 0.9% reported in March. An increase in the federal manufacturers' sales tax (from 14% to 15%), effective April 1 and the lagged implementation in some provinces of the February 27 increase in the federal excise taxes were the principal causes of the latest advance.

Over the 12-month period, April 1985 to April 1986, the all-items excluding food index advanced by 4.2%, a deceleration compared to the rise of 4.5% observed in the previous 12-month period ending in March.

Goods and Services

The goods index fell by 0.2% in April (largely due to lower prices for gasoline and fuel oil) while the services index increased by 0.5%. Between April 1985 and April 1986, the goods index increased by 3.0% and the services index by 4.9%.

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

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Survey of Job Opportunities

An estimated 245,000 persons not in the labour force in March 1986 wanted a job but were not actively looking for employment due to labour market related reasons, such as awaiting recall, waiting for replies from previous job searches or a belief that no jobs were available. This total is down by 24,000 from March 1985 and is the lowest estimate since 1981.

Other findings from this annual supplement of the March Labour Force Survey include:

- Among those not seeking work for labour market related reasons, the number of persons who reported "believes no work available" as their reason for not looking for work decreased by 20,000 from March 1985 to 105,000. (This estimate is just slightly above the corresponding one from the March 1981 survey carried out prior to the recession.)
- There were 151,000 persons who wanted a job but were not looking for employment for personal or other reasons. The estimate for this group rose by 8,000 from March 1985. Personal reasons for not seeking work include illness, family responsibilities and going to school.
- The estimated total number of persons wanting a job but not seeking work regardless of the reason was 396,000 in March 1986.
- Of these, an estimated 27.6% in March 1986 would move within their own province if a suitable job were offered, while 17.7% said they would move to another province to take a suitable job.
- Among persons who reported wanting a job but not seeking one, 62.1% expected to be working within six months.

Order the April 1986 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, \$20/\$200), which contains an article analyzing the results of this survey. Contact: Richard Veevers (613-990-9452), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

Inventories, Shipments, Orders Highlights

- Preliminary estimates indicate that the seasonally adjusted value of shipments for all Canadian manufacturing industries decreased 5.5% to \$20,236.2 million in March from the revised estimate of \$21,414.5 million in February. The decrease followed a loss of 0.5% in February. Data users should note that the unusually large drop in March coincided with a smaller number of trading days due to Easter occurring in March for the first time in eight years.
- The seasonally adjusted value of new orders received in March decreased 6.1% to \$20,397.5 million from the February estimate of \$21,716.9 million.
- The seasonally adjusted unfilled orders backlog at the end of March was \$24,746.1 million, up 0.7% from the revised February estimate of \$24,584.8 million.
- Seasonally adjusted inventories owned by manufacturers at the end of March totalled \$34,106.8 million, down 2.0% from the previous month's revised value of \$34,798.7 million.
- The ratio of seasonally adjusted total inventory owned to seasonally adjusted shipments rose from 1.63:1 in February to 1.69:1 in March.
- Not adjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in March 1986 were estimated at \$21,106.8 million. Cumulative shipments for the first three months of 1986 at an estimate of \$61,251.7 million were up 6.8% from \$57,333.3 million estimated for the same period in 1985.

Order the March 1986 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, \$15/\$150). Contact: the Shipments, Inventories and Orders Section (613-990-9832), Industry Division.

Computer Service Industry

In 1984, there were 2,109 companies in Canada primarily engaged in providing processing, software and systems and other computer-related services, with total operating revenue reported at \$1,767.3 million.

An additional 100 companies were primarily engaged in the sales, leasing and rental of hardware with reported total operating revenue of \$1,214.9 million.

Order the 1984 edition of *Computer Service Industry* (63-222, \$20). Contact: E. Yablonski (613-990-9662), Services Division.

Oil Pipeline Transport

Net receipts of crude oil, condensates, pentanes plus, liquefied petroleum gases and petroleum products through Canadian oil pipelines during February 1986 increased 1.5% to 11 644 098 cubic metres from 11 475 378 cubic metres a year earlier.

Order the February 1986 issue of *Pipeline Transport* (55-001, \$8/\$80). Contact: G. O'Connor (613-991-3662), Industry Division.

Transactions in Outstanding Securities with Non-residents

Net sales to non-residents of outstanding Canadian bonds in March rose by \$153 million to \$375 million. The gross value of bonds traded nearly doubled to \$7.1 billion, following a surge in trading activity with Japan. Net bond sales to Japan doubled to over \$200 million. Net sales of outstanding Canadian stocks increased by nearly \$300 million to \$483 million in March, largely from transactions with the United States. Foreign investment in the Canadian secondary market was strong throughout the first quarter, producing a net capital inflow of some \$2.0 billion, compared to about \$700 million in the fourth quarter of 1985.

Net purchases of outstanding foreign stocks by residents amounted to \$85 million in March, compared to \$43 million in the previous month. The increase in investments was directed to overseas markets. Residents reduced, however, their holdings of foreign bonds, with net sales amounting to \$95 million.

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

Air Carrier Fare Basis Statistics

Preliminary data reported by five major Canadian air carriers – Air Canada, CP Air, Pacific Western Airlines, Nordair and Eastern Provincial Airways indicate that 53.4% of passengers carried on domestic scheduled services travelled on a fare involving some form of discount relative to the regular economy fare in 1985, up from 49.5% in 1984. In terms of passenger-kilometres, discount fares accounted for 60.2% of the total in 1985, up from 57.9% in 1984.

Long-haul services in the domestic southern sector showed the highest rate of discount fare utilization – 63.6% of passengers in this traffic category travelled on a discount fare in 1985. (This is on city-pairs, within the "deregulated" zone as defined in the new 1984 Canadian Air Policy, involving distances of 800 kilometres or more as determined by the flight coupon origin and destination.)

Order the June 1986 (Vol. 18, No. 5) issue of the *Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin* (51-004, \$8.50/\$85). Contact: Lisa Di Pietro (319-997-6176), *Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division*.

Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns

Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts totalled \$1,004.6 million for March 1986, an increase of 6.6% over the \$942.3 million reported for the same period in 1985.

Order the March 1986 issue of *Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns* (63-011, \$5/\$50). Contact: R. Lasnier (613-991-3459), *Services Division*.

Human Activity and the Environment

A Statistical Compendium



Canada

Human Activity and the Environment

What quantities of pollutants are being produced and where are they coming from? How is the Canadian landscape being transformed? To what extent is pressure being placed on the environment by the use of renewable resources?

Statistics which will help to answer these and many other environmentally-relevant questions are to be found in the new statistical compendium *Human Activity and the Environment*. Containing 375 pages of tables, charts and maps, the publication is the most comprehensive compilation of statistics about the Canadian environment ever published.

The report draws on statistics from the many federal and provincial agencies engaged in environmental research and monitoring in providing a statistical picture of Canada's physical environment with special emphasis on the relationship between human activities and other elements of the natural system, such as air, water, soils, plants and animals.

At the core of the document however is the wide variety of information relevant for environmental reporting which is collected by Statistics Canada. A number of these data sets have been reformatted to enhance their value for describing and analyzing activities and processes contributing to environmental change.

Colourful, straightforward presentations assist in making patterns and trends clear for a non-technical audience. The comprehensive nature of *Human Activity and the Environment* makes it a useful environmental reference. At the same time, it will serve as a guide to the many sources of more detailed statistics on any number of environmental topics.

Copies of *Human Activity and the Environment* are available from *Publication Sales and Services* (11-509E, \$45). For more information, contact: *The Structural Analysis Division* (613-990-8586).

Urban FSA and Rural Postal Code Summary Data, 1984

This new publication presents a portrait of the tax filers of 7,000 specific postal code areas. The data present population characteristics for 27 variables, including age group, sex, income and labour force status. It will prove to be an important tool for market researchers and direct mail marketers.

This invaluable reference document for Canadian marketers describes 1,000 urban Forward Sortation Areas (FSA, the first three characters of the postal code); the remaining 6,000 are defined by rural postal codes. It is available in five editions: one for all of Canada and one for each of the four major regions.

Order *Urban FSA and Rural Postal Code Summary Data, 1984* (Catalogue number 17-602). This catalogue is available in five editions. Issue no. 86-000 (Canada package, 432 pages) is \$275 in Canada and \$295 in other countries. The remaining issues are \$100 (per region) in Canada and \$112 in other countries: 86-001 (Atlantic Provinces, 90 pages); 86-002 (Quebec, 126 pages); 86-003 (Ontario, 148 pages); 86-004 (Western Provinces and Territories, 150 pages).

Refined Petroleum Products

Preliminary figures show that in March 1986, sales of refined petroleum products in Canada amounted to 5 829 600 cubic metres, down 2.7% from a year earlier. Cumulative figures for the first three months of 1986 show sales of petroleum products were down 2.3% from a year earlier.

Sales of the main products, with the percentage change from March 1985 in brackets, were as follows: motor gasoline, 2 337 200 cubic metres (-4.1%); kerosene stove oil, 78 900 cubic metres (-6.1%); diesel fuel, 1 028 900 cubic metres (-4.5%); light fuel oil, 849 600 cubic metres (+0.8%) and heavy fuel oil, 419 700 cubic metres (-24.9%). Production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners amounted to 6 855 160 cubic metres, down 1.5% from March 1985.

For the first three months of 1986, sales of refined petroleum products amounted to 18 538 700 cubic metres. Year-to-date sales of the main products with the percentage change from January-March 1985 in brackets, were as follows: motor gasoline, 7 056 399 cubic metres (-3.1%); kerosene stove oil, 284 827 cubic metres (-12.8%); diesel fuel, 3 199 815 cubic metres (+1.0%); light fuel oil, 3 036 958 cubic metres (-10.7%) and heavy fuel oil, 1 809 455 cubic metres (-16.2%). Year-to-date production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners amounted to 21 278 226 cubic metres, up 4.3% from the same period in 1985.

Order the March 1986 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, \$15/\$150). Contact: Gerard O'Connor (613-991-3562), *Energy Section, Industry Division*.

Steel Ingots

Preliminary steel ingot production for April 1986 totalled 1 260 000 tonnes, an increase of 5.9% from the 1 189 735 tonnes produced the previous year.



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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.