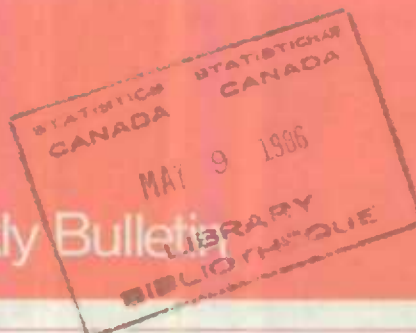


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Weekly Bulletin



May 9, 1986

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

|                              |       |           |           |       |
|------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 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)  | Mar.  | 11.30     | 11.25     | 4.0   |
| Unemployed                   | Mar.  | 1,380,000 | 1,341,000 | -10.7 |

### INVENTORIES

|                                   |       |          |          |      |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|------|
| Department Store (\$ million)     | Feb.* | 3,722.7  | 3,580.3  | 25.3 |
| 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)          | 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

|  |      | Year-to-date |        |      |
|--|------|--------------|--------|------|
| 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)             | Feb.* | 4 659  | 10 255 | -1.2 |
| 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) | 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) | Jan.  | 19.3  | 19.3  | 5.0  |
| Steel (ingots - thousand tonnes)     | Mar.* | 1 270 | 3 559 | -0.8 |

### 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.

## Canadian International Trade

Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis

Preliminary March estimates show that total exports declined 6.9% or \$689 million to \$9.3 billion following a drop of 7.5% in February. Imports suffered an unusually large decline in March, falling 18.3% or \$1.8 billion from the record \$9.9 billion in February. The net effect on the merchandise trade balance was an increase of \$1.1 billion to a level of \$1.3 billion.

Data users should note that the unusually large drop in March imports coincided with a smaller number of trading days due to Easter occurring in March for the first time in eight years.

Exports in the first quarter fell 2.6% to \$30.2 billion following a 4.8% increase in the fourth quarter. The decline was primarily attributable to a 26.7% decline in energy products. Imports rose 2.7% to \$27.8 billion in the first quarter despite the large monthly decline in March. This marks the fifth consecutive quarterly increase in imports. As a result, the merchandise trade surplus declined \$1.5 billion in the first quarter.

## Commodity Highlights

### Total Exports

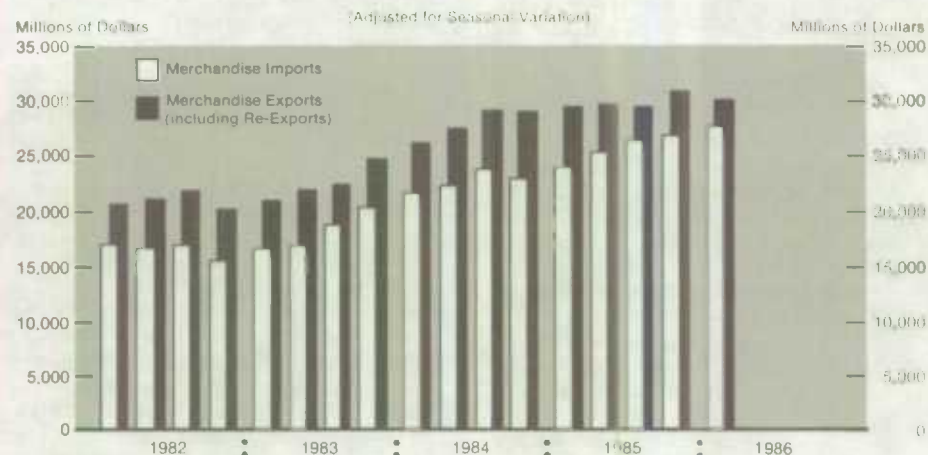
The decline in exports was evident in all major commodity groupings except for forestry and energy products which both posted small gains. Wheat declined a further 41.9% in March following a drop of 19.5% in February and accounted for the decline in agricultural products. Industrial goods registered widespread declines dropping 12.0% after a 10.1% fall in February. Automotive products registered a further drop of 6.5% largely due to automotive parts. Machinery and equipment posted a sharp reversal, declining 8.3% in March after a gain of 10.9% in February; exports of industrial machinery and aircraft were the main factors.

### Imports

The decline in imports was evident in all commodity groupings. The automotive sector declined 13.2% following a drop of 2.0% in February. Industrial goods and materials dropped a further 16.2% after a 7.3% decline in February. Similar movements were registered in machinery and equipment, which dropped 19.0% after a 2.3% increase; agricultural products which fell 19.5% after an 8.9% rise and in other consumer goods, which dropped 13.8% in

(continued on page 2, col. 1)

## Canadian Merchandise Exports and Imports\*



Source: Statistics Canada, Summary of External Trade (65-001)

Canada



## ... Canadian International Trade

March after an increase of 5.8%. Energy products plummeted 46.9% in March, primarily due to falling imports of crude petroleum.

### Trading Partner Highlights Exports

Except for "other OECD countries", exports to all of Canada's trading partners registered declines. Exports to the United States dropped 6.5% following a similar decline in February and accounted for nearly 75% of the fall. Exports to Japan fell 7.4% after a drop of 9.0% in February.

### Imports

Without exception, declines were observed in imports from all of Canada's trading partners. The 13.5% decline in imports from the United States accounted for more than 50% of the drop. Imports from Japan posted a sharp reversal, falling 16.9% after increasing 32.1% in February. Imports from the rest of the world registered similar reversals.

Order the March 1986 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$15/\$150). Contact: G. Blaney (613-990-9647), Trade Information Unit, or Judith Frederick (613-990-9784), Trade Measures and Analysis Section, International Trade Division.

## Aviation Statistics

Highlights from the May issue of the Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin are as follows:

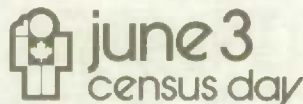
- Advance operational data for February 1986 show that passenger-kilometres for major Canadian air carriers increased by 5.6% over February 1985.
- This month's bulletin contains a special release which shows that passenger traffic on local carrier non-scheduled unit toll services increased by 33% in the second quarter of 1985 from a year earlier.
- Charter passenger traffic between Canada and the United States during the third quarter of 1985 rose 16.3% from the previous year.

Order the May 1986 (Vol. 18, No. 4) issue of *Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin* (51-004, \$8.50/\$85). Contact: the Aviation Statistics Centre (819-997-1986), Transportation Division.

## Unemployment Insurance

Employee unemployment insurance contributions for 1984 have been estimated at \$3,407 million (\$2,175 million for males and \$1,232 million for females), an increase of 10.8% from 1983. A total of 6.5 million males and 5.0 million females paid unemployment insurance premiums in 1984.

Data for the years 1978 to 1984 will be published in *Benefit Periods Established and Terminated Under the Unemployment Insurance Act* (73-201, \$30). Contact: Horst Stiebert or Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-990-9900), Unemployment Insurance Statistics Section, Labour Division.



## Small Business in Canada

The number of smaller size businesses in Canada totalled an estimated 712,924 in 1983, up 0.02% from 695,784 businesses in 1981. Smaller size business operations continued to be heavily concentrated in three areas of industrial activity: 75% of them were in the construction, trade and service sectors. In terms of provincial distribution, 34% of smaller size business operations were located in Ontario (244,952 firms), followed by Quebec with 171,545 firms or 24% of the national total.

*This information as well as information on revenues, profits, wages, equity and asset holdings of small business in Canada will be available as in the publication Small Business in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 1981-1983 (61-521, \$30). The information is currently available in machine readable form (for a fee of \$150). For further information contact: John Skelton (613-990-9046), User Services, Small Business Statistics.*

## Population of Census Divisions and Census Metropolitan Areas

An estimated 14,137,800 Canadians, about 56.3% of Canada's population, lived in census metropolitan areas (CMAs) as of June 1, 1984. Toronto remained Canada's largest CMA, with an estimated 3,148,500 people. Toronto along with Montreal (2,870,700) and Vancouver (1,332,600) made up over 52% of the total CMA population.

The CMA population increased by 157,600 during the period June 1, 1983 to May 31, 1984, compared to an increase of 132,300 the previous census year. The increase in the annual population growth of all CMAs was essentially due to a reversal of internal migration trends, as net internal migration increased by 12,800 in 1983-1984 compared to a decline of 19,700 in 1982-1983. Almost all CMAs showed increases: Toronto gained 15,500 more people than in 1982-1983 and Montreal 5,700, Calgary 5,400 and Vancouver 5,000. However, the CMA of Edmonton recorded a decrease of 11,600.

A significant decline of net international migration totals (to 39,100 in 1983-1984 from 55,400 in 1982-1983) was also reflected in the population totals of CMAs to a gain of 37,300 from 46,800 in the previous period.

The overall population growth rate in 1983-1984 for all CMAs was 1.0% - the same as for the total population of Canada. However, several CMAs showed much higher annual growth rates: Oshawa (3.2%), Saskatoon (2.3%) and Vancouver (2.0%).

*These estimates will appear in Postcensal Annual Estimates of Population for Census Divisions and Census Metropolitan Areas (Component Method), (91-212, \$15). Contact: Lise Champagne or Rosemary Bender (613-990-9581), Demography Division.*

## Help-wanted Index

The seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index (1981 = 100) for Canada increased 5.8% to 91 from 86 between March and April 1986. Regionally the indexes advanced 14.4% in Ontario (to 119 from 104), 4.4% in Quebec (to 94 from 90) and 4.3% in the Atlantic provinces (to 145 from 139). The index remained unchanged in the Prairie provinces (46) and declined by 6.8% in British Columbia (to 41 from 44).

Compared with the same month last year, the April 1986 index for Canada advanced 24.7%. Increases were observed in all regions except the Atlantic provinces where the index declined 35.8%.

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

## Travel Between Canada and Other Countries

During March 1986, preliminary statistics indicate an estimated 2.1 million visits to Canada by United States residents, an increase of 10.6% from the same month in 1985. Visits by residents of other countries rose by 13.3% to 87,600 in March. The number of Canadian re-entries following visits to the United States totalled 3.4 million, an advance of 10.1% from March 1985 figures. Visits by Canadian residents returning from all other countries increased by 2.3% to 285,200.

Total international travel flows during the first three months of 1986 were as follows: 5.3 million trips by United States residents to Canada, a rise of 13.1% compared with 1985; 205,800 visits by residents from other countries, an increase of 9.1%; 8.1 million visits by Canadian residents returning from the United States, a gain of 3.4%, while trips by residents returning from other countries numbered 742,000 - an advance of 6.2% 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 16.1% to 526,000 in March 1986, the highest March level since 1972. Visits by residents of other countries - excluding those arriving by land via the United States and intending to stay less than 24 hours - numbered 80,400 visits, an advance of 11.6% from March 1985. Canadian tourist re-entries from the United States numbered 1.0 million in March, a 9.0% rise, while trips by residents returning from countries other than the United States increased by 2.3% to 285,200.

In the first quarter of 1986, tourist visits from the United States numbered 1.3 million, up 16.1% from 1985. Tourist trips from other countries increased by 9.1% to 192,400 during the same period. Canadian tourist re-entries from the United States numbered 2.3 million, an increase of 4.0% from a year earlier, while visits by residents returning from countries other than the United States grew by 6.2% to 742,000.

Order the March 1986 issue of *International Travel - Advance Information* (66-001P, \$5/\$50).



## Building Permits

The seasonally adjusted value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities in February 1986 increased 7.2% to \$1,928.2 million from \$1,799.3 million in January. This rise was the result of a significant gain recorded in the non-residential sector, combined with a moderate increase in the residential sector.

The seasonally adjusted value of residential permits continued to advance (+2.7%) in February to \$1,166.6 million from \$1,135.9 million in January. In spite of this slower growth on a month-to-month basis, the February 1986 level showed a 64.9% increase over February 1985. The strengthening of residential permits issued was due to increased building activity in the multi-family dwelling sector. Intentions remained at a high level in the single-family dwelling sector in spite of a slight drop recorded in February. On a seasonally adjusted basis, 19,116 units were approved in February (11,017 single-detached and 8,099 multiple dwellings), up 12.3% from the 17,021 units authorized in January (11,416 single-detached and 5,605 multiple dwellings). In annual terms, these approvals represented 229,400 units in February and 204,300 units in January. The increase of residential building permits was widespread in all Canadian regions.

The seasonally adjusted value of non-residential projects in February rose to \$661.6 million, up 14.8% from \$663.4 million in January. The industrial component showed a sharp increase (+54.0%), followed by the public (+10.9%) and the commercial (+5.3%) components which registered more moderate gains.

Order the February 1986 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$20/\$200). Contact Gaétan Lemay (613-990-9689), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

## Construction Building Material Price Indexes

### Residential

The price index for residential construction building materials (1981=100) rose to 125.5 in March, up 1.0% from the revised February level of 124.3. This index now stands 6.5% higher than the year-earlier level of 117.8.

Between February and March 1986, increases were noted in three of the four components: structural materials increased 3.0%, followed by mechanical materials (0.8%) and architectural materials (0.2%). Electrical materials remained unchanged. The change in the total index was mainly attributable to price increases for lumber and plywood.

Between March 1985 and March 1986, the largest year-over-year price increase was recorded for structural materials (10.3%), followed by architectural materials (6.4%) and mechanical materials (2.7%). Electrical materials decreased 0.2%.

### Non-residential

The non-residential construction building material price index (1981=100) rose to 121.1 in March, up 0.3% from the revised February level of 122.7. This index of non-

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## Business Conditions Survey

Canadian manufacturers reporting to the April 1986 Business Conditions Survey anticipate a net increase in production in the second quarter compared to the first quarter of 1986. Higher production is expected by manufacturers representing 40% of total respondents' shipments whereas only 14% predict lower production. However, a substantial proportion of the anticipated net increase in production between the first and second quarter probably reflects a seasonal pattern.

In the April survey, manufacturers representing 60% of total respondents' output reported little change in the receipt of new orders. Although the proportion indicating rising new orders (24%) exceeded the proportion citing declining new orders (17%), this small net difference is again likely to be attributable to seasonal factors.

Canadian manufacturers continue to remain cautious about inventory build-up with 96% indicating that their finished product inventory is about right or too high.

Contact: T. Newton (613-991-3554), Industry Division.

residential building material prices now stands 4.3% higher than the year-ago level of 118.0.

Between February and March 1986, increases were noted in all of the four components. Structural materials increased 0.7%, followed by mechanical materials (0.3%), architectural materials (0.2%) and electrical materials (0.1%). The change in the total index was mainly attributable to price increases for lumber, foamed and expanded plastics and plywood.

Between March 1985 and March 1986, structural materials increased 7.6%, followed by architectural materials (4.4%), mechanical materials (1.9%) and electrical materials (0.9%).

Order the first quarter 1986 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60), available in June. Contact: the Information Service (613-990-9606/7), Prices Division.

## New Housing Price Index

The New Housing Price Index (1981=100) for Canada stood at 101.3 in March, up 0.7% from its February level of 100.6, continuing an upward movement which has now been evident for the last 10 months. This index of Canadian housing contractors' selling prices stands 6.4% higher than the year-earlier level of 95.2.

Between February 1986 and March 1986 the largest increase noted in the price index was for Toronto (1.4%), followed by Hamilton (1.2%), London (1.2%) and St. Catharines-Niagara (1.1%). Lesser gains were registered in Kitchener (0.9%), Saskatoon (0.9%), Calgary (0.8%), Winnipeg (0.6%), Quebec City (0.5%), Montreal (0.5%), Ottawa-Hull (0.3%), Victoria (0.3%), Edmonton (0.2%) and Saint John-Moncton (0.1%). Only St. John's reported a decrease in March (-0.1%).

Builders' 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 some shortages of skilled tradespersons. Significant yearly increases were recorded in Kitchener (16.4%), London (11.7%), Windsor (11.5%), Toronto (11.2%) and St. Catharines-Niagara (10.8%). Calgary also recorded a significant increase (10.6%). Increases were also noted for Hamilton (9.4%), Edmonton (8.4%), Montreal (5.9%), Quebec City (5.6%), Winnipeg (5.4%), Saskatoon (4.2%), Regina (3.6%), Saint John-Moncton (3.3%), Halifax (2.5%), St. John's (1.5%) and Ottawa-Hull (1.2%). Only in Victoria (-4.5%) and Vancouver (-1.2%) were new housing price indexes below the level recorded in March 1985.

Order the first quarter 1986 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$15/\$60). Contact: the Prices Division (613-990-9601).

## Estimates of Labour Income

Labour income for the month of February 1986 was estimated at \$20,853.9 million, an increase of \$1,295.4 million or 6.6% from February 1985.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries decreased to \$19,326.4 million in February, down \$53.7 million from January 1986.

Order the January-March 1986 issue of *Estimates of Labour Income* (72-005, \$15/\$60). Contact: Georgette Gauthier (613-990-9900), Labour Income Section, Labour Division.

## Coal and Coke Statistics

Canadian production of coal totalled 4 659 kilotonnes in February 1986, down 7.5% from 5 035 kilotonnes a year earlier. Exports of coal increased 13.8% to 2 343 kilotonnes from 2 059 kilotonnes in February 1985, while no imports were reported.

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



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**AGRICULTURE/NATURAL RESOURCES**

Cereals and Oilseeds Review, February 1986

|        |            |            |
|--------|------------|------------|
| 22-007 | \$10/\$100 | \$11/\$110 |
|--------|------------|------------|

**CANSIM**

Canadian Statistical Review, April 1986

|         |            |               |
|---------|------------|---------------|
| 11-003E | \$20/\$200 | \$21.50/\$215 |
|---------|------------|---------------|

**CENSUS**

A User's Guide to 1981 Census Data on Place of Birth, Citizenship and Immigration.

|        |      |      |
|--------|------|------|
| 99-946 | \$15 | \$16 |
|--------|------|------|

**EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM**

Culture Communiqué, Vol. 9 No. 2: Statistics on Motion Picture and Videotape Distribution, 1983

|        |          |          |
|--------|----------|----------|
| 87-001 | \$4/\$40 | \$5/\$50 |
|--------|----------|----------|

**INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE**Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics, Fourth Quarter 1985  
Financial Institutions, Fourth Quarter 1985

|        |            |               |
|--------|------------|---------------|
| 61-003 | \$50/\$200 | \$60/\$240    |
| 61-006 | \$40/\$160 | \$41.50/\$166 |

**INDUSTRY**

Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables, January 1986  
Coal and Coke Statistics, January 1986  
Construction Type Plywood, February 1986  
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, December 1985  
Electric Lamps (Light Bulbs and Tubes, March 1986  
Gypsum Products, March 1986  
Merchandising Inventories, January 1986  
New Motor Vehicle Sales, February 1986  
Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe, Tubing and Fittings February 1986  
Production, Shipments and Stocks on hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, January 1986

|        |            |            |
|--------|------------|------------|
| 32-011 | \$4/\$40   | \$5/\$50   |
| 45-002 | \$8/\$80   | \$9/\$90   |
| 37-001 | \$4/\$40   | \$5/\$50   |
| 26-006 | \$8/\$80   | \$9/\$90   |
| 43-009 | \$4/\$40   | \$5/\$50   |
| 44-003 | \$4/\$40   | \$5/\$50   |
| 63-014 | \$12/\$120 | \$13/\$130 |
| 63-007 | \$8/\$80   | \$9/\$90   |
| 41-011 | \$4/\$40   | \$5/\$50   |
| 35-002 | \$8/\$80   | \$9/\$90   |

**INTERNATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS**

Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments, Fourth quarter 1985.  
Security Transactions with Non-residents, January 1986.

|        |            |            |
|--------|------------|------------|
| 67-001 | \$25/\$100 | \$26/\$104 |
| 67-002 | \$15/\$150 | \$16/\$160 |

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

Imports by Commodities, February 1986  
Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, March 1986

|         |            |            |
|---------|------------|------------|
| 65-007  | \$50/\$500 | \$60/\$600 |
| 65-001P | \$5/\$50   | \$6/\$60   |

**LABOUR**

Help-wanted Index, 1985

|        |      |      |
|--------|------|------|
| 71-204 | \$10 | \$11 |
|--------|------|------|

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK**

Building Permits - Annual Summary, 1985  
Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing, Fourth Quarter 1985  
Housing Starts and Completions, February 1986  
Private and Public Investment in Canada, Intentions 1986  
Science Statistics, Vol. 10, No. 4 Industrial Research and Development Expenditures, 1977-1986

|        |            |            |
|--------|------------|------------|
| 64-203 | \$50       | \$51       |
| 31-003 | \$20/\$80  | \$21/\$84  |
| 64-002 | \$15/\$150 | \$16/\$160 |
| 61-205 | \$25       | \$26       |
| 88-001 | \$6/\$60   | \$7/\$70   |

**TRANSPORTATION**

Railway Carloadings, 7-day Period Ending April 14, 1986

|        |      |       |
|--------|------|-------|
| 52-005 | \$75 | \$100 |
|--------|------|-------|

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