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Weekly Bulletin

June 13, 1986

## New Motor Vehicle Sales

Sales of all new motor vehicles totalled 161,832 units in April 1986, up 2.6% or 4,151 units from April 1985. North American built passenger car sales declined by 7.2% to 88,344 units, while overseas car sales increased by 26.3% to reach 31,225 units. Total sales of commercial vehicles increased by 11.9% over April 1985 to 42,263 units.

The share of the Canadian passenger car market held by North American manufacturers in April 1986 (based on unit sales) was 73.9%, down from the 79.4% recorded in April 1985. Japanese manufacturers held a market share of 13.9% compared to 11.0% in the previous year. Manufacturers from "other countries" held 12.2% of the passenger car market, a substantial increase from the 9.6% registered in April 1985.

The total dollar value of all new motor vehicles sold in April 1986 increased by 6% from a year earlier to \$2,306.7 million. Sales of overseas passenger cars reached \$451.0 million, up 42.0% over the corresponding month in 1985. Total sales of commercial vehicles built overseas amounted to \$63.1 million, up 50.1%. Sales of North American passenger cars increased by 0.5% to \$1,142.2 million, while sales of commercial vehicles increased by 21.8% to reach \$650.5 million.

Total new motor vehicle sales reported for the first four months of 1986 increased by 4.2% over the same period the previous year to reach 502,841 units, valued at \$7,010.8 million, a rise of 14.4%.

Order the April 1986 issue of **New Motor Vehicle Sales** (63-007, \$8/\$80). Contact: Maurice Massaad (613-990-9682), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

## Labour Force Survey

### Employment

For the week ended May 17, 1986, the seasonally adjusted employment estimate was 11,614,000 - down 68,000 from the preceding month. Employment declined by 41,000 among persons in the 15 to 24 age group (2,426,000) with 35,000 of the decline accounted for by young men. Employment declined by 27,000 for those aged 25 and over, to 5,188,000.

Full-time employment dropped by 15,000, reaching a level of 9,781,000. The estimate of part-time employment fell to 1,829,000 in May, a decrease of 15,000 (14,000 for males).

(continued on page 2, col. 1)

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Mar.	428.36	428.50	3.5
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.	20,853.9	20,938.5	6.6
Persons with Jobs (million)	May*	11.70	11.43	2.5
Unemployed	May*	1,227,000	1,303,000	-7.7

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Mar.	4,184.6	3,722.7	27.8
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)	Apr.	101.9	101.3	6.9
Raw Materials Price Index (1981 = 100)	Apr.	89.9	95.5	-23.9
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Apr.	102.1	103.2	0.4
Industrial Product Price Index (1981 = 100)	Apr.	119.7	120.1	1.2

### CONSTRUCTION

			Year-to-date	
Building Permits (\$ million)	Mar.*	1,779.0	4,037.1	40.3
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	Mar.	8,517	25,988	23.7

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Mar.	5,052	15,308	-3.8
Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)	Mar.	40,522	127,323	3.2
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)	Apr.*	10,673	39,801	1.1
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Apr.*	10,185	37,298	14.1

### PRODUCTION

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

### SALES

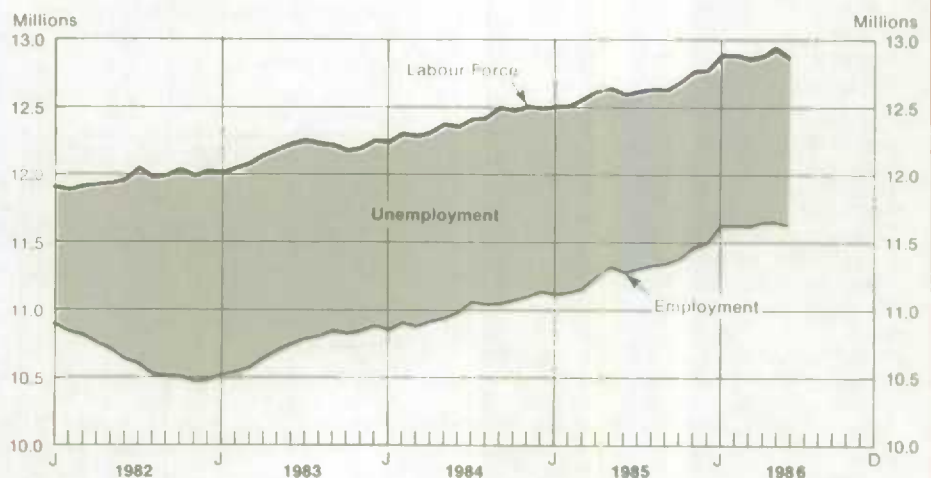
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Apr.*	976.9	3,335.5	7.8
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Mar.	21,106.8	61,251.7	6.8
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Apr.*	2,306.7	7,010.8	14.4
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	10,540.7	29,446.1	8.3

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

\* - new this week.

## The Labour Force

(Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Statistics Canada. The Labour Force (71-001)

## ... Labour Force Survey

Employment decreased in agriculture (-8,000), the other primary industries (-3,000), manufacturing (-56,000) and construction (-22,000). It increased by 10,000 in the finance, insurance and real estate sector.

The seasonally adjusted employment estimates fell by 4,000 in Nova Scotia, 21,000 in Quebec, 23,000 in Ontario, 6,000 in Saskatchewan and 11,000 in Alberta.

### Unemployment

In May 1986, the estimated level of unemployment declined by 11,000 to 1,228,000.

The estimated unemployment level fell by 3,000 in Newfoundland and 34,000 in Quebec. It rose by 3,000 in Nova Scotia, 8,000 in Ontario and 6,000 in Alberta.

### Unemployment Rate

In May 1986, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 9.6 for the third consecutive month. The unemployment rate declined by 1.2 to 18.5 in Newfoundland, by 1.2 to 12.3 in Prince Edward Island, by 0.3 to 14.6 in New Brunswick, by 0.8 to 10.6 in Quebec and by 0.2 to 12.2 in British Columbia. It rose by 0.7 to 13.5 in Nova Scotia, by 0.2 to 7.0 in Ontario, by 0.3 to 7.9 in Saskatchewan and by 0.5 to 10.2 in Alberta. The rate remained stable at 8.2 in Manitoba.

### Participation Rate

The seasonally adjusted participation rate declined to 65.6 in May 1986, with a decrease of 0.5 observed for both men (76.8) and women (54.9). The rate fell in all age groups, but especially for males aged 15 to 24, where a decline of 1.4 cancelled out the gains observed in February and April.

### Unadjusted Data

In May 1986, the unadjusted employment estimate was 11,696,000 - an increase of 284,000 (+2.5%) from a year earlier. The unemployment level was estimated at 1,227,000, down 7.7% or down 102,000 (-7.7%) from May 1985. The unemployment rate declined by 0.9 over the 12-month period to 9.5. The participation rate was 66.0, a slight rise (0.1) from a year earlier. The employment/population ratio was 59.8, a gain of 0.8 over the same period.

Order the May 1986 issue of **The Labour Force** (71-001, \$20/\$200). Contact: Ken Bennett (613-990-9448), Household Surveys Division.

## Farm Prices of Agricultural Products

The April 1986 index of farm prices of agricultural products for Canada was 274.7 (1971 = 100), 1.3% less than the March 1986 estimate of 278.3 and 8.4% less than the April 1985 level of 299.8.

The 1.3% decrease in the overall index from March to April 1986 was due to decreases in both the total crops and the livestock and livestock products sub-indices.

Oilseed prices continued to fall in April, dropping by 6.1%. This was the main contributor to the 1.0% decrease in the total crops sub-index. Soybean prices were down 2.0% while flaxseed and canola-rapeseed prices were down 6.2% and 6.7% respectively from March. Corn and Western

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## Farm Cash Receipts

Farm cash receipts for the January-April 1986 period were estimated at \$7,258.1 million, a decrease of 0.4% from the level of \$7,286.9 million for the corresponding period in 1985.

Receipts from the sale of field crops totalled \$3,648.6 million, a 5.2% decline from the 1985 level of \$3,848.4 million. Higher crop insurance and Western Grain Stabilization payments, as well as higher wheat and barley receipts, partially offset lower Canadian Wheat Board participation payments and lower liquidations of deferred grain receipts. Prices declined for all major field crops.

Total livestock receipts decreased by 2.2% to \$3,153.1 million in 1986 from \$3,222.9 million in 1985. Receipts for cattle and hogs declined due to lower marketings and prices, while receipts for calves declined in spite of higher prices. Receipts increased for sheep, lambs, and dairy products, while decreasing for poultry and eggs.

Other cash receipts climbed to \$456.4 million in 1986 from \$215.6 million in 1985. Higher provincial income stabilization payments, especially in Alberta and British Columbia, and increased supplementary payments because of drought in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia are the principal reasons for this increase.

Order the January-April 1986 issue of **Farm Cash Receipts** (21-001).

non-board grain prices were also lower in April.

The total livestock and livestock products sub-index fell 1.5%, led by 4.5% and 2.1% decreases in hog and cattle prices. Poultry and egg prices were up slightly at the national level during the month.

Provincially, indexes in all provinces were lower in April than in March.

Order the April issue of **Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products** (62-003, \$6/\$60). Contact: Paul Murray (613-990-8706), Farm Income and Prices Section, Agriculture Natural Resources Division.

## Canadian International Trade

Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis

### Overview Month-to-Month

Preliminary April estimates show total exports climbed 9.5% or \$891 million to \$10.2 billion. The increase followed consecutive monthly declines averaging more than 7.0% from the record January level of \$10.8 billion. Imports rebounded 13.4% or \$1.1 billion to \$9.2 billion after dropping 18.3% in March. The net effect on the merchandise trade surplus was a slight decline of \$194 million to a level of \$1.1 billion.

### Commodity Highlights

#### Total Exports

The increase in exports was evident in all major commodity groupings with the exception of energy products. Industrial goods and materials registered a 21% gain following a drop of 12% in March, mainly attributable to metal ores and concentrates. Machinery and equipment posted a 15% gain, primarily due to aircraft and other transportation equipment. Automotive products increased 7% as car exports rose 12%. Forestry products, with an 11% increase, were also a major contributor to the overall April increase. Energy products declined 13% as a result of sharp drops in coal and natural gas exports.

#### Imports

As in exports, gains were posted in all major commodity groupings with the exception of energy products. Following a 47% drop in March, energy products posted a further 19% decline this month primarily due to coal.

In all other sectors, except for automotive products, the steep declines posted in March were matched by similar increases in April. Machinery and equipment rose 24% after a 19% decline in March. Industrial goods and materials increased 16% in April, following a similar drop the month before. Other consumer goods recovered 23% after falling 14%. Agriculture and fishing products posted the strongest gains, rising 31% after a 20% drop in March. Imports of automotive products increased only marginally in April.

### Trading Partner Highlights

#### Exports

Except for the 'Other O.E.C.D.' country grouping, exports to all of Canada's trading partners registered increases. Exports to the United States rose 9.1% following a drop of 6.5% in March and a similar decline in February. Exports to Japan increased 25.4% after two consecutive monthly declines averaging 8.2%.

#### Imports

Imports from all of Canada's trading partners registered significant increases in April in contrast to the sharp declines the month before. Imports from the United States rose 7.8% following a decline of 13.5%. Imports from Japan posted a sharp recovery, rising 25.4% after a 16.9% drop in March.

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



## Gross Domestic Product

(seasonally adjusted data)

### Monthly Overview

Preliminary estimates show that overall production, as measured by Gross Domestic Product, declined 0.8% in March following an increase of 0.5% in February and a decrease of 0.1% in January. Goods-producing industries, which account for about 40% of GDP, were responsible for three-quarters of the decline.

### Quarterly Overview

Gross Domestic Product in the first quarter rose 0.3%. This followed increases in the previous three quarters that were fairly strong in terms of the past decade: 1.4% in the fourth quarter of 1985, 1.5% in the third quarter and 1.1% in the second. Despite the weak first quarter growth, the net effect of these movements was to leave the GDP 4.4% above its level in the first quarter of 1985.

Output of goods-producing industries was little changed in the quarter (-0.1%), after average quarterly increases of 1.4% through 1985. Output of service-producing industries rose 0.5%, but the increase was about half the quarterly rate recorded during 1985.

### Goods-producing Industries

Widespread output declines in manufacturing were responsible for a large part of the March decline in goods-producing industries. Other goods-producing industries registering declines in output were mining, utilities, construction and forestry. Only agriculture and fishing and trapping increased in the month.

Manufacturers' output fell 2.0% in March. While decreases in output were broadly based, some of the major contributors were transportation equipment, food and beverages, metal fabricated products, machinery, primary metals, chemicals, and textiles. One factor in a number of these declines was decreased exports of automobiles, trucks, primary metals, and machinery.

### Service-producing Industries

Output of service-producing industries declined 0.3% in March following a 0.4% gain in February. Several transportation and wholesale trade industries were major contributors to the decline. In addition, output decreases were reported by motor vehicle dealers in retail trade, local and provincial government - at least partly due to labour disputes - and insurance and real estate agencies.

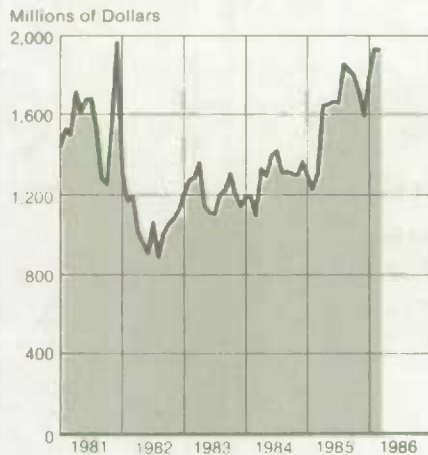
Motor vehicle dealers posted a drop of almost 8% in March, reducing their output level in the first quarter of 1986 below the third and fourth quarters of 1985. Retail trade excluding motor vehicle dealers advanced by 1.0%, based on gains in most store types.

One of the few notable gains in individual industries was the 10% increase in security brokers and dealers, an industry that gained more than 40% since October 1985.

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

## Building Permits, Canada

(Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Statistics Canada, Building Permits (64-001)

## Construction Building Material Price Indexes

### Residential

The price index for residential construction building materials (1981=100) rose to 128.7 in April, up 2.1% from March. On a year-over-year basis the index rose 8.9%.

Between March and April 1986 the largest price increases were for lumber, metal roofing and siding and Douglas fir plywood. During the month, all residential building materials were affected by a one percentage point advance in the federal sales tax.

Between April 1985 and April 1986, structural materials rose 14.2%, followed by architectural materials (8.5%), mechanical materials (4.0%) and electrical materials (1.1%).

### Non-residential

The non-residential construction building material price index (1981=100) rose to 125.4 in April, up 1.6% from March and 5.9% from a year earlier.

Between March and April 1986, the largest price increases were for metal roofing and siding, ready-mix concrete and concrete bricks and blocks.

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

## Railway Carloadings

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada totalled 21.4 million tonnes in April 1986, an increase of 4.4% from the previous year. Railway carriers received an additional 1.1 million tonnes from the United States, a decrease of 6.0% from April 1985.

Total loadings in Canada for the year-to-date showed an increase of 3.2% from the 1985 period, while receipts from United States connections increased by 2.8%.

Order the April 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.

## Building Permits

The seasonally adjusted value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities in March slipped slightly to \$1,925.2 million from \$1,931.7 million in February. A notable gain recorded in the non-residential sector did not quite offset a drop in the residential sector.

The seasonally adjusted value of residential permits in March dropped 7.2% to \$1,086.0 million from \$1,170.7 million in February. The overall decrease reflected a decline in the single-family dwelling sector that was only partially offset by an increase in the multi-family dwelling sector. In spite of the decline, the level of residential construction intentions remained comparatively strong. Looked at in terms of both constant dollars and the number of dwelling units authorized, the first quarter of 1986 marked the best first quarter performance in the residential sector since 1977. On a seasonally adjusted basis, 16,875 units were approved in March (9,325 single detached and 7,550 multiple dwellings), down 11.3% from 19,034 units authorized in February (10,831 single detached and 8,203 multiple dwellings). In annual terms, these approvals represent 202,500 units in March and 228,400 units in February. Except for the province of Quebec, all other regions recorded decreases in residential building permits in March.

The seasonally adjusted value of non-residential projects in March rose 10.3% to \$831.1 million. This is the best performance recorded in the non-residential sector since April 1985 (\$856.0 million). All components increased in March: the commercial sector showed an appreciable rise (+15.1%), followed by the industrial (+6.0%) and the public (+3.4%) sectors. The value of non-residential permits increased in all regions except British Columbia.

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

## Department Store Sales

Department stores in Canada reported sales totalling \$976.9 million in April 1986, an increase of 7.7% from a year earlier.

Cumulative sales for the period January to April 1986 totalled \$3,335.5 million, up 7.8% from the same period in 1985.

On a regional basis, department store sales during the month were as follows (percentage change from April 1985 in parentheses):

- Atlantic provinces, \$67.4 million (+2.0%);
- Quebec, \$190.6 million (+8.2%);
- Ontario, \$363.0 million (+9.9%);
- Manitoba, \$50.4 million (+2.2%);
- Saskatchewan, \$29.6 million (+1.0%);
- Alberta, \$124.6 million (+5.4%);
- British Columbia, \$151.3 million (+9.9%).

Order the April 1986 issue of *Department Store Sales by Regions* (63-004, \$2/\$20). Contact: Maurice Massaad, Retail Trade Section (613-991-3549), Industry Division.



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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM JUNE 6 TO JUNE 12

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
<b>AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
Farm Cash Receipts, January-March 1986	21-001	\$7/\$70	\$8/\$80
Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry, March 1986	23-003	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
<b>CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS</b>			
Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1984-85	85-211	\$32	\$33.50
<b>HEALTH</b>			
Hospital Indicators, April 1985-December 1985	83-002	\$15/\$60	\$16/\$64
Vital Statistics Quarterly, January-March 1986	84-001	\$5/\$20	\$6/\$24
<b>INDUSTRY</b>			
Gypsum Products, April 1986	44-003	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, February 1986	31-001	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
New Motor Vehicle Sales, March 1986	63-007	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
Primary Iron and Steel, March 1986	41-001	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Production, Sales and Stocks of Major Appliances, April 1986	43-010	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Shipments of Plastic Film and Bags Manufactured from Resin, Quarter Ended March 31, 1986	47-007	\$5/\$20	\$6/\$24
Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, May 1986	32-012	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, May 1, 1986	32-010	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
Wholesale Trade, March 1986	63-008	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>			
Imports by Countries, January-March 1986	65-006	\$75/\$300	\$85/\$340
Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, April 1986	65-001P	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
<b>LABOUR</b>			
Unemployment Insurance Statistics, March 1986	73-001	\$12/\$120	\$13/\$130
Benefit Periods Established and Terminated Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1984	73-201	\$30	\$31
<b>PRICES</b>			
Consumer Price Index, May 1986	62-001	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
Farm Input Price Index, First Quarter 1986	62-004	\$10/\$40	\$11/\$44
<b>SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK</b>			
Building Permits, February 1986	64-001	\$20/\$200	\$21/\$210
Housing Starts and Completions, March 1986	64-002	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Air Carrier Traffic at Canadian Airports, Third Quarter 1984	51-005	\$38/\$152	\$39/\$156
Railway Carloadings, April 1986	52-001	\$7.50/\$75	\$8.50/\$85
Railway Carloadings, 7-day Period Ending May 21, 1986	52-005	\$75	\$100

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