

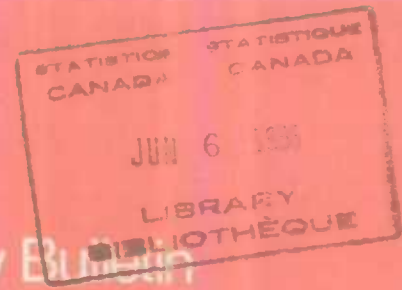


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Weekly Bulletin



June 6, 1986

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

		Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Mar.	428.36	3.5
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.	20,853.9	6.6
Persons with Jobs (million)	Apr.	11.43	3.8
Unemployed	Apr.	1,300,000	9.3

### 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.	21,133.5	20,522.5	1.5
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Mar.	24,398.3	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

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)	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)	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	4,704.1	14.8
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.

## Retail Trade

Preliminary estimates of total retail trade for March 1986 indicate an increase of 4.2% over the same month last year, totalling \$10,540.7 million in current dollars (not adjusted for inflation). Increased sales in March 1986 as compared to March 1985 were reported by all kinds of businesses surveyed with the exception of garages (-3.8%), combination stores (-2.4%) and sporting goods and accessories stores (-1.4%). The most notable gains were registered by used car dealers (+23.3%), florists (+21.8%), book and stationery stores (+18.9%) and household appliance stores (+15.9%).

With the exception of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, which both registered sales decreases of 0.1%, all other provinces and territories reported higher sales in March 1986 over the corresponding month in 1985. The gains ranged from 6.1% in Alberta to 0.9% in Saskatchewan. At the metropolitan area level, sales advanced in all cities for which data are published: Montreal (+6.9%), Toronto (+6.2%), Winnipeg (+4.1%) and Vancouver (+3.7%).

The revised retail sales estimates for February 1986 amounted to \$9,216.9 million, an increase of 9.8% over February 1985.

## Seasonally Adjusted Sales

Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, retail sales totalled (continued on page 2, col. 3)

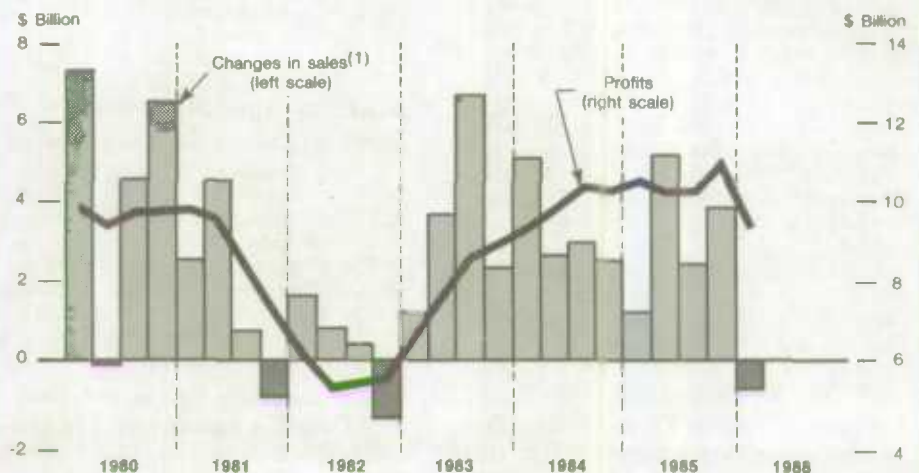
## Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics

In the first quarter of 1986, seasonally adjusted pre-tax profits of industrial corporations declined 15.4% from the previous quarter to \$9.3 billion - the largest drop recorded in recent years. Most of the decline was accounted for by the mineral fuels and petroleum industries and reflected falling crude oil prices.

Excluding the mineral fuels and petroleum and coal industries, the remaining 45 industries registered a 3.9% decrease in pre-tax profits from the fourth quarter of 1985. Profits in individual industries varied, with 11 posting increases while 21 industries registered declines. In dollar terms the decline was most pronounced in transportation equipment (-\$224 million). The largest increase was in the communications industry (\$59 million).

(continued on page 2, col. 1)

## All Industries (Seasonally adjusted)



Canada

## ... Industrial Corporations

The ability of corporations to meet interest charges out of current profits, measured by the interest coverage ratio, decreased to 2.6 from 2.9 last quarter and 2.8 in the third quarter of 1985. The actual level of interest expenses stood at \$5.7 billion, continuing a very gradual increase since the level of \$5.5 billion recorded in the first quarter of 1985.

### Industry Highlights (Seasonally Adjusted)

#### Mineral fuels

As a result of the falling world price of crude oil, pre-tax profits in mineral fuels dropped from \$1.8 billion in the fourth quarter of 1985 to \$1.0 billion. Sales of this industry fell from \$6.4 billion to \$6.2 billion in the same period.

#### Petroleum and coal products

The impact of lower crude and refined oil prices coupled with shifts in activities back to mineral fuels accounted for the decline in both profits and sales. Pre-tax profits dropped by almost half, from \$1.2 billion last quarter to \$0.7 billion this quarter. Sales declined from \$6.6 billion to \$5.8 billion.

#### Transportation equipment

Increased costs related to retail financing and other buyer incentive programs given by the automobile industry were responsible for a \$224 million reduction in profits to \$561 million. Sales of the industry remained strong. At \$13.8 billion, they were well above the \$11.4 billion average quarterly sales level of the past three years, despite being down from \$14.2 billion last quarter.

#### Non-metallic minerals

Because fourth quarter 1985 profits had contained unusually high dividend income, pre-tax profits fell by almost half to \$155 million. This level closely approximates the average earnings for the first three quarters of 1985. Sales remained at \$1.6 billion, slightly above levels recorded in the first three quarters of 1985.

#### Retail department stores

Pre-tax profits were down \$91 million, falling to \$35 million in the first quarter from the recent high of \$126 million in the fourth quarter of 1985. Sales of the industry dropped \$0.7 billion to \$4.8 billion in the quarter.

Among industries showing offsetting increases, the most marked was in the **communications industry** where profits increased from \$499 million to \$558 million. Sales of the industry only rose 1% to \$2.8 billion.

The data cover non-government owned corporations in Canada except those in the agriculture, fishing and finance industries. More detailed statistics for the 47 industry groups are now available on CANSIM: matrices 4780-4921 and 4928-4942.

**Order Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics (61-003P).** Contact: Gail Campbell or Bill Potter (613-990-9843). **Industrial Organization and Finance Division.**

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## Weekly Bulletin

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## Construction in Canada

Total construction activity in Canada is expected to reach \$63.8 billion in 1986, up 3.9% from 1985. Current estimates indicate that the increase will originate mostly in housing construction, manufacturing and in finance. Partially offsetting decreases are expected for mining and for the commercial sector.

On a regional basis, advances are anticipated for Manitoba and Ontario while Nova Scotia and Newfoundland will register notable decreases.

As to the types of construction, the building portion is expected to fare best, increasing by 9.1% while engineering posts a drop of 3.2%. Housing is expected to be the key contributor to the strength for building construction.

These estimates for construction supplement those published in **Private and Public Investment in Canada, Intentions 1986 (61-205)** and are derived from the data collected in the investment surveys.

**Order Construction in Canada, 1984-1986 (64-201, \$35).** Contact: Duncan Lusick or Margaret Hartley (613-990-9815), **Capital Expenditures Section, Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.**

## Air Passenger Statistics

A total of 3,048,220 passengers travelled on domestic scheduled services during the fourth quarter of 1985, down 0.1% from the 3,051,770 passengers recorded for the fourth quarter of 1984.

The number of passengers travelling on scheduled services between Canada and the United States reached 1,759,130 during the fourth quarter of 1985, up 5.0% from 1,674,920 passengers a year earlier.

**Air Passenger Origin and Destination: Domestic Report, 1985 (51-204, \$28)** will be available in June. **Air Passenger Origin and Destination: Canada/United States Report, 1985 (51-205, \$35)** is scheduled for release in July.

## ... Retail Trade

\$11,238.1 million in current dollars in March 1986, a decrease of 0.6% from the previous month's revised total of \$11,301.4 million. The largest sales increases were recorded by florists (+10.1%) and variety stores (+8.3%). In contrast, major decreases were posted by motor vehicle dealers (-8.3%) and jewellery stores (-1.6%).

In March 1986, when compared to February 1986, higher sales were reported in three provinces: Saskatchewan (+0.7%), British Columbia (+0.3%) and Ontario (+0.1%). Sales remained unchanged in Quebec, while lower sales were registered in the remaining provinces and territories, with decreases ranging from 4.5% in the Yukon and Northwest Territories to 0.3% in Manitoba. At the metropolitan area level, sales climbed in all four cities surveyed: Montreal (+1.3%), Vancouver (+0.2%), Winnipeg (+0.2%) and Toronto (+0.1%).

### Analysis of 1985 Results (Final Data)

The final estimate of total retail sales in Canada for 1985 amounted to \$129,446.3 million in current dollars, an increase of 11.5% over the 1984 level of \$116,079.9 million.

All provinces recorded sales increases as compared to a year earlier, with gains varying from 15.2% in Manitoba to 5.1% in Prince Edward Island. Sales rose in all of the four metropolitan areas surveyed: Winnipeg (+15.0%); Toronto (+12.8%); Montreal (+9.1%) and Vancouver (+8.9%).

**Order the March 1986 issue of Retail Trade (63-005, \$14/\$140).** Contact: Linda Di Piédro (613-991-3551) or Moe Massaad (613-991-3549), **Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.**

## Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas

Preliminary figures show production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons for February 1986 decreased 3.8% from the previous year to 6 748.4 thousand cubic metres.

Exports decreased 10.1% from February 1985 to 2 040.4 thousand cubic metres while imports increased 174.0% to 1 885.3 thousand cubic metres. Canadian refinery receipts of crude oil increased 17.6% to 6 467.0 thousand cubic metres.

Preliminary figures show net withdrawals of natural gas in February 1986 decreased 4.5% from last year, totalling 8 818.3 million cubic metres. Marketable production of natural gas after treatment at processing plants amounted to 7 086.9 million cubic metres, down 5.8%, while net withdrawals of natural gas liquids (propane, butanes and ethane) reached 1 219.1 thousand cubic metres, a decrease of 3.4% from the previous year.

Exports of natural gas reached 2 123.7 million cubic metres, down 20.4%, while sales in Canada declined 0.1% to 5 894.6 million cubic metres.

**Order the February 1986 issue of Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production (26-006, \$8/\$80).** Contact: G. O'Connor (613-991-3562), **Industry Division.**



## Industrial Product Price Index

Preliminary estimates show the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1981=100) went down 0.3% in April 1986. This decrease stemmed primarily from an estimated 8.5% drop for gasoline and fuel oil, which was partly offset by significant increases observed for lumber and timber, woodpulp and motor vehicles.

The year-over-year advance of the IPPI from April 1985 to April 1986 was 1.2%. Without the impact of the decline in petroleum products, the annual movement of the IPPI to April 1986 would have been at a level comparable to the 2.4% average observed for the preceding six months.

Preliminary estimates show gasoline and fuel oil prices decreased by 8.5% in April 1986 to a level 14.6% lower than in April 1985. Significant price increases on both domestic and export markets were observed for sulphate woodpulp (7.1%) and automobiles (2.6%). Softwood lumber prices rose by 4.9%, mainly as a result of an increase in price on export markets.

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

## Raw Materials Price Index

Preliminary estimates show the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1981=100) fell by 5.8% in April 1986 from the March level. The decline was chiefly attributable to an estimated 12.6% drop for the mineral fuels component index. The RMPI on a year-over-year basis – comparing April 1986 to April 1985 – was down 23.9%. (Excluding the mineral fuels component from the calculation of the RMPI would result in a 1.1% decrease over the month and a 0.4% increase over the year.) Of the seven components making up the Raw Materials Price Index, five registered decreases, one increased and one showed no change between March and April 1986.

The 12.6% decrease for the mineral fuels component in April left this index 45.6% below its year-earlier level. Crude oil prices were estimated to have dropped 16.5% over the month to a level 52.9% lower than a year ago.

Lower prices for hogs (-4.7%) and cattle and calves (-0.9%) were the key factors in a 1.3% decrease in the animal and animal products component index. However, this index remains 1.4% higher than its April 1985 level.

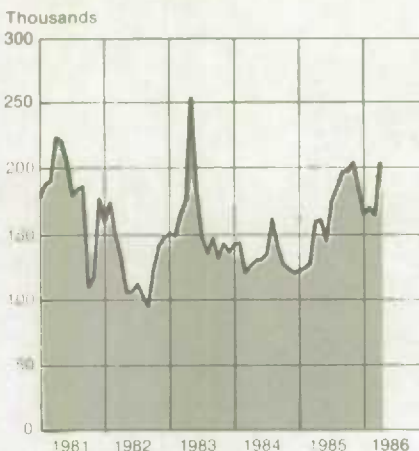
The vegetable products component index was down 0.8% in April and 2.5% lower than a year ago. Decreases for grains (-0.8%), oilseeds (-1.3%) and cocoa, coffee, and tea (-4.3%) were partially offset by increases for fresh fruit (1.0%) and fresh vegetables (4.8%).

A number of metals, including copper, nickel, gold and silver registered price decreases in April, resulting in a 1.8% decline in the index for non-ferrous metals. This index is 2.2% lower than its April 1985 level.

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

## Housing Starts in Canada

Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



Source: Statistics Canada, Housing Starts and Completions

## Housing Starts

Housing starts on a seasonally adjusted basis reached 204,000 units for all areas in April 1986, up from 164,000 in March. While activity in the single dwelling sector remained stable, multiple dwelling starts jumped substantially.

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

## Electric Power Statistics

Net generation of electricity in Canada decreased by 0.6% in March 1986 to 40 522 gigawatt hours from 40 765 gigawatt hours a year earlier. Exports of electric power decreased 14.2% to 3 222 gigawatt hours from 3 756 gigawatt hours while imports increased by 509.9% to 944 gigawatt hours from the March 1985 level of 155 gigawatt hours.

During 1986 to date, the net generation of electricity totalled 127 323 gigawatt hours, up 3.2% from the January – March 1985 level of 123 340 gigawatt hours. Exports of electricity rose 6.8% to 9 938 gigawatt hours from 9 301 gigawatt hours and imports advanced 175.8% to 1 515 gigawatt hours from 549 gigawatt hours.

Order the March 1986 issue of **Electric Power Statistics** (57-001, \$8/\$80). Contact: Dave Madsen (613-991-3565), Energy Section, Industry Division.

## Gas Utilities

Sales of natural gas in Canada amounted to 5 862 million cubic metres in February 1986.

Reported exports to the United States were 2 124 million cubic metres during February 1986.

Order the February 1986 issue of **Gas Utilities** (55-002, \$10/\$100). Contact: Gary Smalldridge (613-991-3567), Energy Section, Industry Division.

## New Housing Price Index

The New Housing Price Index (1981=100) for Canada stood at 101.9 in April, up 0.6% from March, continuing an upward movement which has been evident for the last 11 months. This index of Canadian housing contractors' selling prices stands 6.9% higher than the year-earlier level. Between March and April 1986 the estimated house only index increased 0.9%, while the estimated land only index increased 0.1%.

The largest increase in new housing prices in April was in Kitchener-Waterloo (1.7%) which also had the largest annual increase (16.8%). Southern Ontario cities included in the survey continued to exhibit 12-month increases in excess of 10%. Demand for new houses in these centres remained at a high level and higher costs for construction materials and labour contributed to increased selling prices.

Victoria registered a decrease of 0.6% in April as builders lowered selling prices in order to complete sales. In Alberta, where there is evidence of increased inventories of unsold houses, the recent patterns of price increases were not sustained.

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

## Major Appliances

Canadian firms produced 220,621 major appliances during April 1986, a decrease of 5.9% from the 233,532 units produced the previous month.

Domestic sales of major appliances by these firms decreased to 161,773 units in April 1986, down 2.4% from March 1986.

Order the April 1986 issue of **Production, Sales and Stocks of Major Appliances** (43-010, \$4/\$40). Contact: Roger Lapante (613-990-9837), Industry Division.

## Coal Production

Canadian production of coal totalled 5 052 kilotonnes in March 1986, down 8.7% from 5 535 kilotonnes a year earlier. Exports of coal increased 5.0% to 2 379 kilotonnes in March, up from 2 266 kilotonnes the previous year. Imports of coal were reported at 102 kilotonnes in March 1986. Coke production totalled 404 kilotonnes, down 0.7% from March 1985.

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

## Oil Pipeline Transport

Net receipts of crude oil, condensates, pentanes plus, liquefied petroleum gases and petroleum products through Canadian oil pipelines during March 1986 decreased 4.2% to 12 295 985 cubic metres from 12 833 417 cubic metres in March 1985.

Order the March 1986 issue of **Oil Pipeline Transport** (55-001, \$8/\$80). Contact: G. O'Connor (613-991-3562), Industry Division.



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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM MAY 30 TO JUNE 5

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
<b>AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
Cereals and Oilseeds Review, March 1986	22-007	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
The Dairy Review, March 1986	23-001	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
<b>CANSIM</b>			
Canadian Statistical Review, May 1986	11-003E	\$20/\$200	\$21.50/\$215
<b>DEMOGRAPHY</b>			
Quarterly Estimates of Population for Canada, the Provinces and the Territories, January 1986	91-001	\$6/\$24	\$7/\$28
<b>EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM</b>			
Education Statistics Bulletin, Vol. 8, No. 3: Preliminary Postsecondary Enrolment, Fall 1985	81-002	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Enrolment in Community Colleges, 1983-84	81-222	\$20	\$21
<b>INDUSTRY</b>			
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, January 1986	26-006	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
Gas Utilities, January 1986	55-002	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
Oil Pipe Line Transport, February 1986	55-001	\$8/\$80	\$9/\$90
Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe, Tubing and Fittings, March 1986	41-011	\$4/\$40	\$5/\$50
Production of Selected Biscuits, Quarter Ended March 1986	32-026	\$5/\$20	\$6/\$24
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, March 1986	35-003	\$6/\$60	\$7/\$70
Quarterly Report on Energy Supply-Demand in Canada - III, 1985.	57-003	\$25/\$100	\$26.50/\$106
Refined Petroleum Products, February 1986	45-004	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
<b>INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS</b>			
Gross Domestic Product by Industry, February 1986	61-005	\$10/\$100	\$11/\$110
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>			
Imports by Commodities, March 1986	65-007	\$50/\$500	\$60/\$600
<b>PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS</b>			
Federal Government Employment, October-December 1985	72-004	\$20/\$80	\$21/\$84
Local Government Employment, October-December 1985	72-009	\$10/\$40	\$11/\$44
<b>PRICES</b>			
Industry Price Indexes, March 1986	62-011	\$15/\$150	\$16/\$160
<b>SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK</b>			
Construction Statistics, Vol. 9, No. 4, Construction Duration of Apartments by Size of Structure, 1985	64-003	\$5/\$30	\$6/\$36
<b>STANDARDS</b>			
Survey Methodology: A Journal of Statistics Canada, Vol. 11, No. 2, December 1985	12-001	\$10/\$20	\$11.50/\$23
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Railway Carloadings, 7-day Period Ending May 7, 1986	52-005	\$75	\$100
Railway Carloadings, 7-day Period Ending May 14, 1986	52-005	\$75	\$100

These publications can be purchased by writing to Publication Sales and Services (613-993-7276), Room 1710, Main Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6. Please enclose cheque or money order payable to the Receiver General for Canada and provide full information on publications required (number, title, issue).

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.