

# I·N·F·O·M·A·T

## A W E E K L Y R E V I E W

Friday, January 16, 1987

### OVERVIEW

#### ■ Growing Imports Reduce Merchandise Trade Surplus

In November the value of exports continued to rise (1.7%), but at a slower rate than the value of imports (3.3%).

#### ■ Cardiovascular Disease Leading Cause of Death

Cardiovascular disease is still the number one killer of Canadians, accounting for as many deaths as all other causes combined, despite marked declines over the last three decades.

#### ■ Motor Vehicle Sales Down Slightly From 1985 Record Levels

For the first 11 months of 1986, new motor vehicle sales were down 1%, as lower passenger car sales offset the increase in commercial vehicle sales.

#### ■ Unemployment Rate Remains at 9.4%

The number of unemployed remained almost unchanged in December, as an increase in employment was matched by an increase in the size of the labour force.

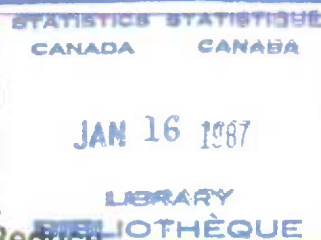
#### ■ Labour Income Registers Steady Growth

Following eight months of declining growth rates, the year-over-year rise in labour income was 5.1% for the second consecutive month in October.

#### ■ Record Levels of Foreign Tourists Continue

Despite the closing of Expo 86, the number of foreign visitors to Canada continued to reach record levels in November.

#### ■ This issue also includes information on the National Task Force on Tourism Data and the New Housing Price Index.



### Growing Imports Reduce Merchandise Trade Surplus

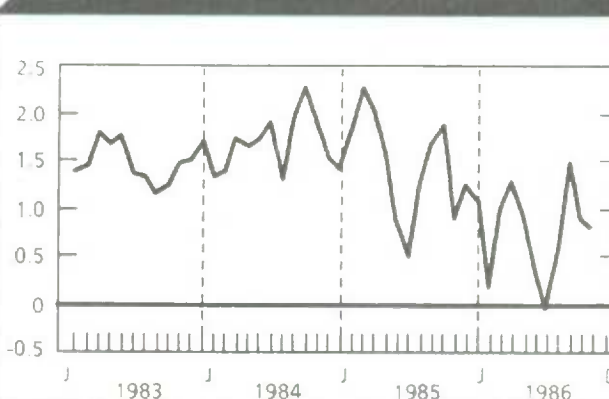
The seasonally adjusted merchandise trade balance decreased for the second consecutive month in November, dropping by \$135 million to register a surplus of \$811 million. The year-to-date trade balance was \$8.9 billion, down substantially from the \$16.3 billion surplus recorded in the same period of 1985. For the first 11 months of the year, total exports were only 1.0% above the level recorded in the same period of 1985, while imports were up 9.1%.

Following a downturn in the first two quarters, the value of exports has generally been rising since July. In November, exports were up 1.7% over October, reaching the highest level since February 1986. Large swings were recorded in the value of exports in several commodity groups. Exports of industrial goods and materials, industrial machinery, other end products and wheat advanced. Automotive products declined by \$244 million, following a gain of

(continued on page 2)

#### Merchandise Trade Balance

(billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted)



Statistics Canada  
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Canada

## ... Merchandise Trade

\$153 million in October. Decreases were also observed in exports of lumber, aircraft and "other" energy products.

Imports, advancing for the second consecutive month, rose 3.3% to \$9.7 billion. Despite some wide swings, the value of imports has been growing since the start of the year. In the current month, imports of automotive products rose by \$188 million, industrial goods and materials advanced by \$144, and agricultural and fishing products were up \$64 million.

### Merchandise Trade

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
	% change, previous month				
Imports	8.5	-5.5	-3.3	4.9	3.3
Exports	3.5	1.0	5.7	-0.8	1.7
	change, previous month				
Balance (millions of \$)	-433	635	865	-530	-135

For further information, contact International Trade Division at (613) 990-9647.

## Cardiovascular Disease Leading Cause of Death

Cardiovascular disease still ranks as the number one killer of Canadians and accounts for as many deaths as cancer, accidents, diabetes, pneumonia and all other conditions combined. This disease in its various forms kills almost 80,000 Canadians each year, accounts for approximately 400,000 acute care hospital admissions and is responsible for 4.5 million days of hospital care. The direct hospital costs to Canadians have been estimated to be in excess of \$2 billion each year.

However, a new study released today shows that cardiovascular disease mortality rates have dropped dramatically over the last three decades. Highlights of *Cardiovascular Disease in Canada*, the first comprehensive statistical report on cardiovascular mortality and morbidity in Canada, include:

- For all cardiovascular diseases the age-standardized mortality rates per 100,000 population declined 32% for males to 350.7 in 1982 from 512.4 in 1951. For females the rate declined during the same period to 199.3 from 396.2 per 100,000 population, a decline of approximately 50%.

- Some 20,000 more deaths would have occurred in 1982, had the decline in cardiovascular disease mortality rates not taken place.
- Cardiovascular disease is the most common cause of death among Canadian men over 40 and women over 65.
- Six out of 10 deaths from cardiovascular disease are the result of coronary heart disease, while two out of 10 are due to strokes.
- Eight out of 10 deaths from stroke occur for those over 65 years of age.
- In Canada, the United States and the rest of the western hemisphere, cardiovascular disease mortality rates, particularly from ischemic (coronary) heart disease and cerebrovascular (stroke) disease declined markedly during the last three decades.

It is generally accepted that trends in cardiovascular disease mortality represent a genuine change; however, at present there is no consensus on the reasons for these striking declines. More information is needed to determine the extent to which improved primary prevention, changes in lifestyle and improved and/or more accessible health care have contributed to the declining mortality rate.

*Cardiovascular Disease in Canada* is the first comprehensive statistical report on cardiovascular mortality and morbidity in Canada. Its 175 pages and 27 illustrative charts review trends in cardiovascular mortality for 30 years and morbidity for 14 years and trace the significant changes that have taken place in the management of this disease.

For further information, contact Health Division at (613) 990-8387.

### Age Standardized Mortality Rates

	1952	1962	1972	1982
	per 100,000 population			
All causes				
Male	1,037.6	958.3	926.1	784.9
Female	768.0	647.3	549.6	446.5
All cardiovascular disease				
Male	515.9	499.1	451.2	350.7
Female	389.9	335.7	266.5	199.3

## Motor Vehicle Sales Down Slightly

For the first eleven months of 1986, total new vehicle sales were down slightly (1.0%) from the record levels registered in the same period of last year. Commercial vehicle sales have been strong throughout 1986 and were 7.0% higher than the January to November sales in 1985. Passenger car sales, on the other hand, were down 3.8% as both imported and domestic car sales have declined.

Commercial vehicle sales declined 7.4% in November, the second of only two year-over-year decreases in 1986. Based on unit sales, commercial vehicles accounted for 27.4% of the sales to date in 1986. Using dollar value, they accounted for 32.2% of the total sales, the highest level since 1980.

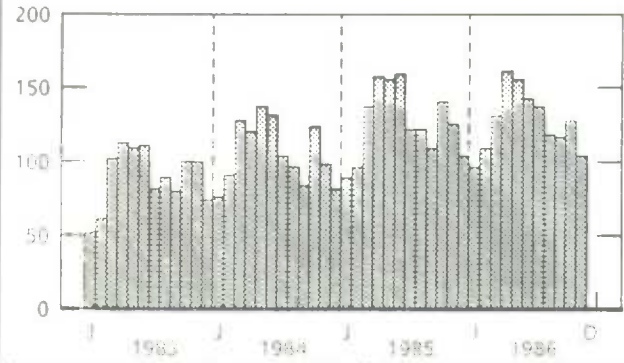
North American-built passenger car sales, which have been weak since January, were off 18.9% in November. Imported passenger car sales were down (-21.2%) for the seventh month in a row on a year-over-year basis, with Korean, Japanese and European passenger car sales all declining.

### Motor Vehicle Sales

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
	% change, previous year				
Passenger cars	8.5	-6.2	7.2	-13.7	-19.7
North American	17.3	-5.1	12.1	-5.5	-18.9
Overseas	-7.0	-8.5	-3.2	-28.2	-21.2
Commercial vehicles	19.4	2.2	6.8	1.2	7.4

### Motor Vehicle Sales

(thousands of units)



North American manufacturers won 66.0% of the passenger car market, their lowest market share since November 1985 when they held 66.2%. The Japanese share rose to 20.9%, up from 19.6% held a year earlier. Manufacturers from countries other than Japan or North America held 12.2% of the passenger car market, down from 14.2% in November 1985. South Korea (the largest component of the "other countries" category) held 5.5% of the market, compared to 8.0% a year earlier.

For further information, contact Industry Division at (613) 990-9682.

## Unemployment Rate Steady at 9.4%

The Labour Force Survey for December indicated that the seasonally adjusted level of employment rose 51,000 from November. However, since this increase was accompanied by a rise of 52,000 in the labour force, the number of unemployed persons remained almost unchanged. The unemployment rate held at 9.4% for a third consecutive month.

The increase in employment was limited to persons aged 25 and over. Employment in this age group rose by 31,000 among males and 28,000 among females. There was a decline of 8,000 in youth employment. Three-quarters of the overall increase was full-time jobs.

The level of unemployment was estimated at 1.2 million in December, virtually unchanged from November. An increase of 9,000 in youth unemployment was almost offset by a decline of 8,000 among persons 25 years of age and older.

In 1986, the average level of employment was 11.6 million, an increase of 2.9% from 1985. The annual average number of unemployed fell by 6.9% from 1985, to 1.2 million.

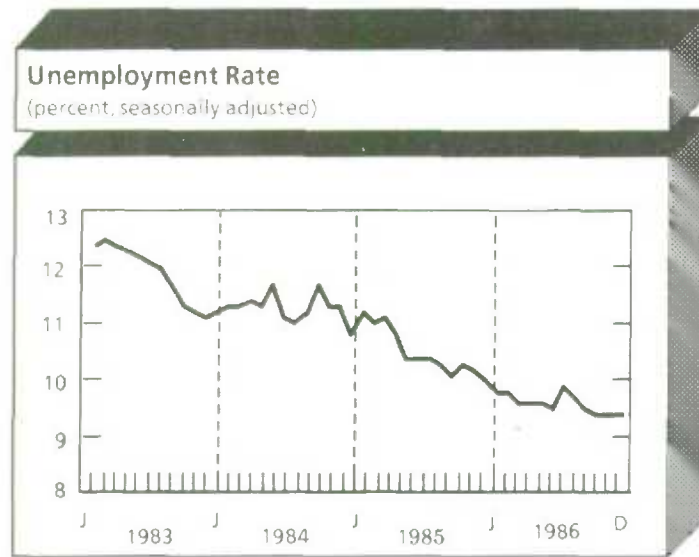
### Labour Force

	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Change, previous month				
Labour force ('000)	31	3	4	9	52
Employment ('000)	48	32	15	5	51
15-24 years ('000)	8	-23	-15	14	-8
25 years & over ('000)	40	55	30	-9	59
Unemployment ('000)	-17	-29	-11	4	1
Unemployment rate	9.7	9.5	9.4	9.4	9.4

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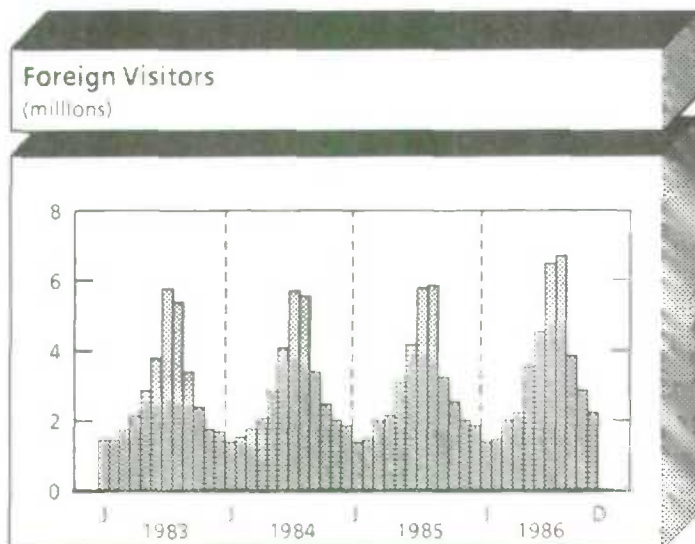
## ... Unemployment Rate Steady



For further information, contact Labour Division at (613) 990-9448.

## Record Levels of Foreign Tourists Continue

- Despite the closing of Expo 86, the number of visitors to Canada from the United States and other countries continued to reach record levels in November.
- Long-term trips by U.S. residents were up 3.0% over November 1985, while visits from residents of other countries were 16.2% higher than a year earlier.



- From January to November 1986, the number of foreign visitors totalled 38.2 billion, 12.3% higher than the same period of 1985.
- The number of Canadians travelling outside the country edged up 1.4% over the first 11 months of 1985.
- Canadian residents increased their visits to overseas countries by 19.7% in November.
- Following a period of decline that started in May of this year, the 149,275 overseas trips recorded during the month represent the highest November level since 1972.
- This increase coincided with a seasonal decline in Trans-Atlantic airfares.
- Canadian residents also increased their visits to the United States, compared to November 1985. However, at 2.6 million, the number of trips remained below the record set in November 1983.

For further information, contact International and Financial Economics Division at (613) 990-8933.

## National Task Force on Tourism Data

The National Task Force on Tourism Data, created by federal, provincial and territorial ministers of tourism to develop a dependable data base for the industry, presented its final findings and recommendations to Ministers in November.

One of the highlighted recommendations was a proposed "grid", a conceptual framework for developing comparable and consistent classifications for tourism data. Used consistently by both data collectors and suppliers, it will eliminate the definitional discrepancies that have traditionally saddled the industry.

The lack of credible measure of the scope, or size of tourism, has been a barrier to the industry's attempts to establish its impact on the economy, especially on employment. The Task Force has recommended that the industry measure itself from the supply side to provide a more accurate and comparable measure.

The tourism "satellite" account to the System of National Accounts, under development at Statistics Canada as a Task Force pilot project, will provide the framework for organizing supply and demand-side data.

Current demand-side surveys that collect tourism data will be enhanced in order to meet the emerging data needs identified by the Task Force and to improve their effectiveness in supplying regional data, thus eliminating the need for duplication in provincial surveys.

After carefully reviewing many options for organization that would ensure the industry continues to benefit from the Task Force's work, members recommended the creation of a Tourism Research Institute at the Conference Board of Canada. The Institute officially begins operation in the new year. The Task Force's final report will be published in 1987.

*For further information, contact Labour Division at (613) 990-9900.*

## New Housing Price Index

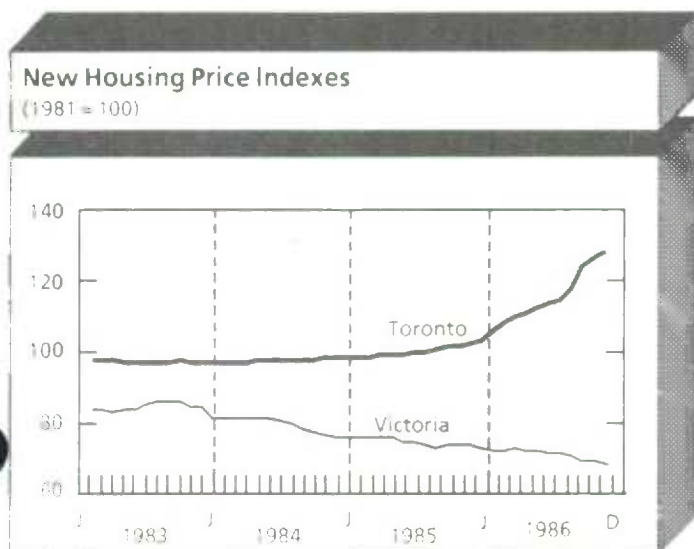
In November, the new housing price index was up 1.4% over October, continuing the upward movement evident for the last 18 months. Lower interest rates and the strong performance of the local economy has stimulated demand for residential housing in some regions of the country. The average monthly advance to date in 1986 is 1.0% for Canada; in Toronto the average gain is double the national figure.

Cities in southwestern Ontario have registered large monthly advances throughout 1986. Hamilton had the highest monthly increase of 16 cities in November (6.6%). Compared to November 1985, the index for Toronto was up 25.7%, the largest annual increase since 1974. London, St. Catharines-Niagara, and Kitchener-Waterloo also continue to record annual increases over 10%.

In Victoria, on the other hand, the index declined for the sixth consecutive month, as contractors continued to lower their selling prices to stimulate sales.

The New Housing Price Index measures changes in prices for particular models of new residential houses. It is based on the selling price agreed upon between the builder and buyer. Contractors in 22 metropolitan areas supply information on the physical and non-physical characteristics, and the selling price of the house (divided into "house", "land", and "house and land").

*For further information, contact Prices Division at (613) 990-9601.*



## Labour Income Registers Steady Growth

The preliminary estimate of labour income for October 1986 was \$22.9 billion, an increase of 5.1% from October 1985. The year-over-year increases in labour income were on a downward trend from January to August, but rose to 5.1% in September. The average year-over-year growth for the first ten months of 1986 was 5.9%.

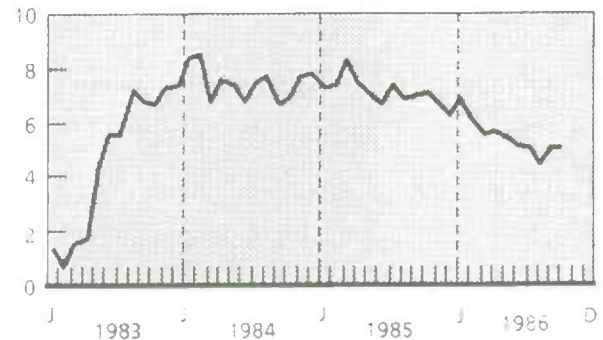
Overall, the growth rate of wages and salaries in the service industries has been relatively stable throughout 1986. The year-over-year increase in October was 6.3%, slightly higher than the average of 6.2% recorded in the first ten months of the year. Since July 1986, trade industries have shown stronger rates of increase in wages and salaries than those recorded in the first two quarters, while transportation, communication and other utilities have shown smaller increases.

The goods-producing industries have restricted the growth of total labour income. They have registered progressively smaller increases in wages and salaries since January 1986, dropping to 2.0% in October from 8.4% in January. In October, wages and salaries in mines, quarries and oil wells decreased on a year-over-year basis for the sixth consecutive month

(-13.9%) and in forestry for the third consecutive month (-19.3%). The growth rate of manufacturing wages and salaries rose for the second month in a row, but at 4.4% it was smaller than those recorded in the first half of 1986.

### Labour Income

(% change, previous year)



For further information, contact Labour Division at (613) 990-9900.

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM JANUARY 9 - 15

### AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

**Farm Cash Receipts, January-October 1986** Catalogue number 21-001 (Canada: \$7/\$70; Other Countries: \$8/\$80)

**Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry, October 1986** Catalogue number 23-003 (Canada: \$10/\$100; Other Countries: \$11/\$110)

### DEMOGRAPHY

**Changes to Municipal Boundaries, Status and Names, 1985** Catalogue number 12-201 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

**Quarterly Estimates of Population for Canada, the Provinces and the Territories, July 1986** Catalogue number 91-001 (Canada: \$6/\$24; Other Countries: \$7/\$28)

**Reference Dictionary - 1986 Census of Canada, Catalogue number 99-101E** (Canada: \$35; Other Countries: \$36.50)

### EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM

**Travel-log, Vol. 5, No.4: Domestic Travel, Second Quarter 1986** Catalogue number 87-003 (Canada: \$8/\$32; Other Countries: \$9/\$36)

### HEALTH

**Cardiovascular Disease in Canada, 1951-1982** Catalogue number 82-544 (Canada: \$30; Other Countries: \$31.50)

### HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

**Income Distributions by Size in Canada, 1985** Catalogue number 13-207 (Canada: \$38; Other Countries: \$39.50)

### INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE

**Industrial Corporations Financial Statistics, Third Quarter 1986** Catalogue number 61-003P (Canada: \$15/\$60; Other Countries: \$16/\$64)

### INDUSTRY

**Canadian Forestry Statistics, 1984** Catalogue number 25-202 (Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21)

**Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables, September 1986** Catalogue number 32-011 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

**Chemical and Chemical Products Industries - Other Agricultural Chemical Industries, 1985** Census of Manufactures Catalogue number 46-250B 3729 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5)

**Electric Lamps (Light Bulbs and Tubes), November 1986** Catalogue number 43-009 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

**Electric Power Statistics, September 1986** Catalogue number 57-001 (Canada: \$8/\$80; Other Countries: \$9/\$90)



## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM JANUARY 9 - 15 - Concluded

### INDUSTRY - Concluded

**Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries**, November 1986 Catalogue number 43-005 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

**Fruit and Vegetable Preservation**, Vol. 15, No. 1: **Pack of Processed Asparagus** Catalogue number 32-023 (Canada: \$6/\$100; Other Countries: \$7/\$110)

**Gypsum Products**, November 1986 Catalogue number 44-003 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

**Non-metallic Mineral Products Industries - Clay Products Industry (From Domestic Clay)**, 1985 Census of Manufactures Catalogue number 44-250B 3511 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5)

**Operating Results - Retail Drug Stores**, 1983 Catalogue number 63-607 (Canada: \$15; Other Countries: \$16)

**Paper and Allied Products - Asphalt Roofing Industry**, 1985 Census of Manufactures Catalogue number 36-250B 2721 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5)

**Paper and Allied Products - Newsprint Industry**, 1985 Census of Manufactures Catalogue number 36-250B 2712 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5)

**Paper and Allied Products - Paper Consumer Products Industry**, 1985 Census of Manufactures Catalogue number 36-250B 2793 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5)

**Primary Metal Industries - Primary Steel Industries**, 1985 Census of Manufactures Catalogue number 41-250B 2910 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5)

**Primary Textile Industries - Broad Knitted Fabric Industry**, 1985 Census of Manufactures Catalogue number 34-250B 1831 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5)

**Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada**, October 1986 Catalogue number 47-004 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

**Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe, Tubing and Fittings**, October 1986 Catalogue number 41-011 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

**Retail Trade**, October 1986 Catalogue number 63-005 (Canada: \$14/\$140; Other Countries: \$15/\$150)

**Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances**, November 1986 Catalogue number 43-003 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

**Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products**, October 1986 Catalogue number 41-006 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50)

**Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables**, December 1, 1986 Catalogue number 32-010 (Canada: \$8/\$80; Other Countries: \$9/\$90)

### INTERNATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS

**Canadian Statistical Review**, December 1986, Feature article: Gross Domestic Product, Third Quarter 1986 Catalogue number 11-003E (Canada: \$20/\$200; Other Countries: \$21.50/\$215)

**Travel Between Canada and Other Countries**, July-September 1986 Catalogue number 66-001 (Canada: \$35/\$140; Other Countries: \$36.50/\$146)

### INTERNATIONAL TRADE

**Exports by Commodities**, October 1986 Catalogue number 65-004 (Canada: \$50/\$500; Other Countries: \$60/\$600)

**Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade**, November 1986 Catalogue number 65-001P (Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60)

### LABOUR

**Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act**, Report for 1983, Part II, Labour Unions Supplement Catalogue number 71-202S (Canada: \$30; Other Countries: \$31.50)

**Unemployment Insurance Statistics**, October 1986 Catalogue number 73-001 (Canada: \$12/\$120; Other Countries: \$13/\$130)

### PRICES

**Farm Product Price Index**, October 1986 Catalogue number 62-003 (Canada: \$6/\$60; Other Countries: \$7/\$70)

### SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK

**Building Permits**, September 1986 Catalogue number 64-001 (Canada: \$20/\$200; Other Countries: \$21/\$210)

**Housing Starts and Completions**, October 1986 Catalogue number 64-002 (Canada: \$15/\$150; Other Countries: \$16/\$160)

### SERVICES

**Communications Service Bulletin**, Vol. 6, No. 7: **Telecommunication Statistics**, Third Quarter 1986 Catalogue number 56-001 (Canada: \$6.50/\$39; Other Countries: \$7.50/\$45)

### TRANSPORTATION

**Railway Carloadings**, 7-day Period Ending December 14, 1986 Catalogue number 52-005 (Canada: \$75; Other Countries: \$100)

**Railway Carloadings**, October 1986 Catalogue number 52-001 (Canada: \$7.50/\$75; Other Countries: \$8.50/\$85)

**Surface and Marine Transport - Service Bulletin**, Vol. 3, No. 1 Catalogue number 50-002 (Canada: \$7.50/\$75; Other Countries: \$8.50/\$85)



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**LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS**

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
<b>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</b>				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Oct.	433.77	433.17	2.1
Labour Income (\$ million)	Oct. *	22,852	22,854	5.1
Persons with Jobs (million)	Dec. *	11.56	11.61	1.8
Unemployed	Dec. *	1,180,000	1,173,000	-4.7
<b>INVENTORIES</b>				
Department Store (\$ million)	Oct.	4,886	4,206	14.1
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Oct.	33,825	33,813	-1.8
<b>ORDERS</b>				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Oct.	21,841	21,269	-0.6
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Oct.	23,974	24,106	-0.9
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1981 = 100)	Nov.	134.7	134.0	4.5
New House Price Index (1981 = 100)	Nov. *	109.7	108.2	12.2
Raw Materials Price Index (1981 = 100)	Nov.	94.5	94.6	-19.4
Excl. mineral fuels	Nov.	81.4	82.1	4.9
Industrial Product Price Index (1981 = 100)	Nov.	119.8	119.8	0.4
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
			<b>Year-to-date</b>	
Building Permits (\$ million)	Sept.	1,961	17,916	25.0
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	Oct.	15,883	141,111	25.2
<b>ENERGY</b>				
Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Aug.	4,342	37,522	-7.8
Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)	Aug.	34,552	298,495	2.0
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Sept.	7,579	75,416	-3.4
<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b>				
Exports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Nov. *	10,705	110,892	0.5
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Nov. *	9,436	102,704	8.6
<b>SALES</b>				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	1,084	9,366	5.9
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Oct.	21,973	208,793	2.9
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Nov. *	1,594	20,202	9.6
Refined Petroleum Products (thousand cubic metres)	Oct.	6,773	64,137	-0.3
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	12,237	113,000	8.4

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.  
\* new this week.

**Infomat****A Weekly Review**

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