

I·N·F·O·M·A·T

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

Friday, August 28, 1987

OVERVIEW

■ Benefit Payments Dip Slightly During the First Half of 1987

Unemployment insurance benefits paid during the first six months of 1987 totalled \$5.8 billion, down slightly (-0.1%) from the same period in 1986.

■ Non-residential Decline Pushes Down Value of Building Permits

The value of building permits issued in June dropped 10.3% from May. A large decline in the value of non-residential permits (-22.6%) coupled with a slight decrease for residential permits (-2.6%) led to the over-all drop.

Wholesale Trade Jumps 18.6%

In June, wholesale merchants' sales rose 18.6% over the same month a year earlier. All major groups except wholesalers of farm machinery, equipment and supplies registered increased sales over a year earlier.

■ Manufacturing Shipments Register a Modest Advance

For the third consecutive month, manufacturing shipments edged up (+0.2%) in June. However, the level of shipments was 1.2% below the level of February 1987.

■ Industrial Employment Increases

Led by higher employment in manufacturing, total employees on payrolls rose 1.4% in June compared to May. However, employment in construction registered a smaller than usual increase.

■ Travel Account Deficit Up Sharply

During the first six months of 1987, the travel account deficit reached a record \$2.3 billion, up 29% from the same period in 1986. However, comparisons with last year must take into account the impact of Expo 86 on both visitors' receipts and residents' payments.

This issue **also** contains information on the **Livestock Report**.

Unemployment Benefit Payments Dip Slightly During the First Half of 1987

During the first six months of 1987, benefit payments amounted to \$5.8 billion, a slight decrease (-0.1%) from the same period last year. The decrease in payments was the result of a 5.6% decrease in the number of benefit weeks which more than offset a 5.8% increase in the average weekly benefit.

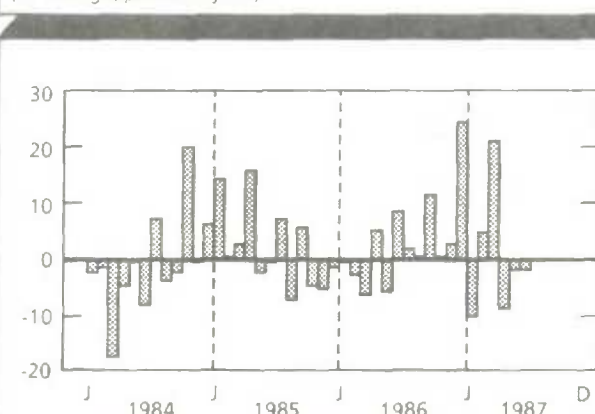
Unemployment insurance benefits paid during June 1987 totalled \$761 million, down 2.1% from June 1986. Benefits paid are a function of the number of beneficiaries, the amount of weekly benefit, and the number of days available to process claims in any one month. The decrease in benefits in June was mainly due to a difference in the number of processing days during the two months.

A total of 247,000 claims for unemployment insurance benefits were received in June, up 5.5% from the same month in 1986. The number of claims received since the beginning of 1987 totalled 1.5 million, a decrease of 5.1% compared to the same period last year.

(continued on page 2)

Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments

(% change, previous year)



... Benefit Payments

Seasonally adjusted estimates show that the number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits totalled 872,000 in June, down

2.0% from the preceding month. The number of beneficiaries has been declining since August 1986, when it stood at 990,000.

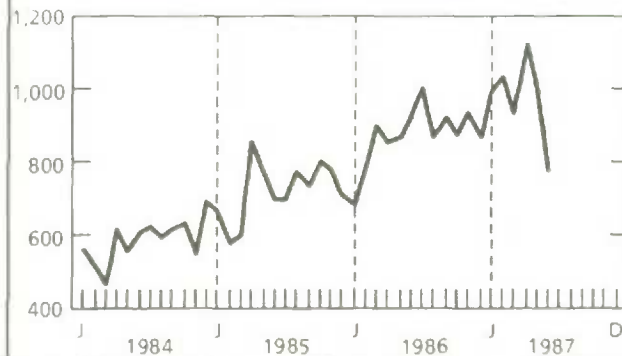
For further information, contact Labour Division at (613) 991-4044 or order Unemployment Insurance Statistics (catalogue number 73-001).

Non-residential Decline Pushes Down Value of Building Permits

In June, the seasonally adjusted value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities was \$2.3 billion, down 10.3% from May. Decreases in the value of building permits during the last three months followed a 4.8% advance in March. In the current month, the non-residential sector and to a lesser extent the residential sector were both responsible for the decrease.

The value of non-residential permits fell 22.6% in June to \$767 million. The value of projects in this sector tends to be higher than in the residential sector, so large month-to-month swings in total value are common. All components of non-residential construction declined in June. The industrial component dipped slightly (-2.9%) to total \$207 million. The largest component of non-residential construction, the commercial component, dropped 31.2%, to a level of \$402 million, while the public component fell 18.2%, to \$159 million.

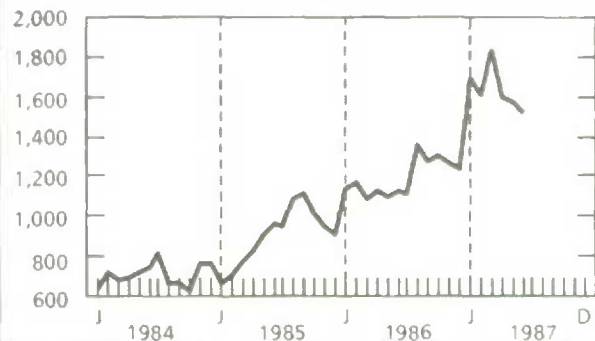
Non-residential Construction Permits
(thousands of dollars, seasonally adjusted)



The value of residential permits slipped 2.6% in June. The single-family dwelling sector was entirely responsible for this decrease, dropping 4.7% from the previous month. The multi-family dwelling sector was up 2.7% from May, following substantial declines in the two previous months. The number of dwelling units authorized in June, presented as an annual rate, was 253,300. Annual rates for single-detached dwellings and multiple dwellings were 134,900 and 118,400.

For further information, contact Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division at (613) 991-2583 or order Building Permits (catalogue number 64-001).

Residential Construction Permits
(millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted)



Building Permits

	Feb	Mar	Apr.	May	June
	% change, previous month				
Residential	-4.9	13.9	-12.7	-2.2	-2.6
Non-residential	3.6	-9.5	20.1	-11.5	-22.6
Total	-1.8	4.8	-1.6	-6.0	-10.3

Wholesale Trade Jumps 18.6%

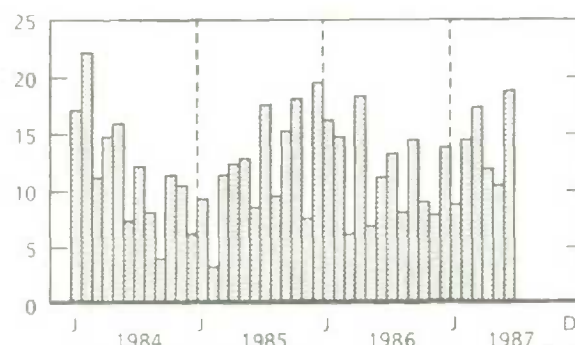
In June, wholesale merchants' sales were up 18.6% over the same month a year earlier. Cumulative sales for the first six months of 1987 rose 13.5% from 1986.

The trade groups having the most significant impact on the overall advance in sales included wholesalers of electrical and non-electrical machinery, equipment and supplies who recorded sales increases of 30.5% from June 1986. Food wholesalers (+17.3%) and lumber and building materials merchants (+18.8%) also registered significant year-over-year advances. Indeed, except for wholesalers of farm machinery, equipment and supplies who registered a decrease of 9.8% from June 1986, all other major groups recorded an increase in sales from a year earlier.

Increases in wholesale trade were posted in all regions between June 1986 and June 1987. Wholesalers in British Columbia, the Yukon and Northwest Territories registered the largest advance with sales up

Wholesale Merchants' Sales

(% change, previous year)



22.4% from June 1986. The smallest increase was recorded in Quebec where wholesale trade increased 16.7% in June from the same month a year earlier.

For further information, contact Industry Division at (613) 991-3541 or order Wholesale Trade (catalogue number 63-008).

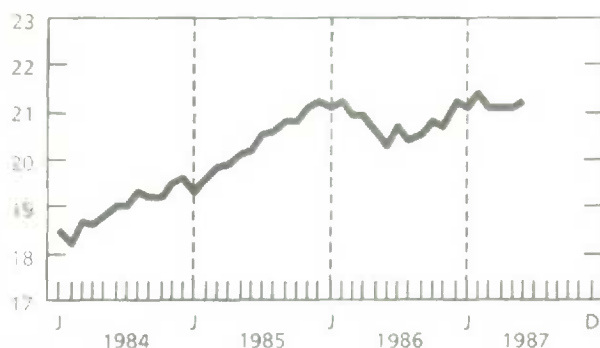
Manufacturing Shipments Register a Modest Advance

In June, the seasonally adjusted value of shipments registered a modest increase for the third consecutive month. While the 0.2% advance nudged the value of shipments up to \$21.2 billion, the level of shipments was 1.2% below the level in February 1987.

The seasonally adjusted level of new orders and the backlog of unfilled orders also rose in June for the third consecutive month. New orders increased 0.3% to a level of \$21.5 billion. The monthly advances in the level of new orders have gotten progressively smaller, though. The backlog of unfilled orders was valued at \$24.3 billion, 1% higher than in the previous month.

Manufacturing Shipments

(billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted)



Manufacturing Activity

	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
	% change, previous month				
Shipments	1.6	-1.8	0.1	0.3	0.2
New orders	3.7	-2.4	1.3	0.5	0.3
Unfilled orders	0.2	-0.4	0.7	0.9	1.0
Inventory to shipments ratio	1.55	1.57	1.58	1.59	1.59

Most of the improvement in June originated in the non-durable goods producing industries. Manufacturers of durable goods (automobiles, household appliances, etc.) reported a decline of 0.9% in the level of shipments in June and a 2.0% drop in the level of new orders.

Following increases in April and May, inventory owned by manufacturers decreased slightly in June. From November 1986 to March 1987, inventory levels had been on a declining trend.

The ratio of inventory owned to shipments, at 1.59 in June, was unchanged from May. This marked the sixth consecutive month in which this ratio has remained below 1.60:1.

For further information, contact Industry Division at (613) 990-9832 or order Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries (catalogue number 31-001).

Industrial Employment Increases

In June 1987, the total number of employees on industries' payrolls at the Canada-wide level (not adjusted for seasonal fluctuations) increased by an estimated 144,000 (+1.4%) from May. This increase was similar to those observed between May and June in previous years. Compared to June 1986, employment in industry was up 2.6%.

Employment estimates increased more than usual in manufacturing, while there was a smaller than usual increase in construction. Employment also increased more than usual for this time of year in

finance, insurance and real estate and in community, business and personal services. The increase in transportation, communication and other utilities was smaller than normal.

Compared to May 1987, total average weekly earnings for employees in the good-producing industries dipped slightly (-0.4%). Average weekly earnings decreased in construction at a time of year when an increase is usually observed. In the service producing industries, average weekly earnings increased by 0.9% between May and June.

For further information, contact Labour Division at (613) 991-4090 or order Employment, Earnings and Hours (catalogue number 72-002).

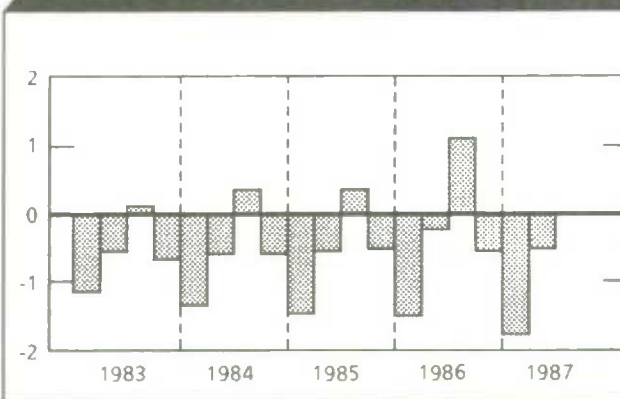
International Travel Deficit Up Sharply

Preliminary estimates for the first six months of 1987 show that Canada's deficit on the travel account, which records payments by Canadians travelling abroad and receipts from international visitors to Canada, was up 29% to \$2.3 billion. The magnitude of the annual travel account deficit will depend on the remaining two quarters of 1987. Traditionally, a surplus is registered during the third quarter when tourism to Canada peaks, and a deficit is registered in the fourth quarter.

International travel statistics are seasonal, therefore all quarterly comparisons are made with similar periods of previous years. However, comparisons with last year must take into account the impact of Expo 86 on both visitors' receipts and payments by Canadians. Receipts, in particular, registered a higher rate of growth which reduced the size of the travel deficit.

In the second quarter of 1987, estimates show that Canada's receipts from international travel were only down slightly (-0.3%) from the same period last year. Without the drawing power of Expo 86, receipts from the United States fell 5% to \$1.1 billion. However, receipts from residents of all other countries grew an additional 9%, continuing the trend of rising

Travel Account Balance
(billions of dollars)



receipts. The value of the Canadian dollar relative to foreign currencies, increased promotion and possibly higher awareness as a result of Expo 86 are all believed to be factors in this trend.

Total payments by Canadians travelling abroad increased 12% (to \$2.1 billion) in the second quarter of 1987. Following moderate growth in 1986, payments by Canadians have risen by at least 12% for two consecutive quarters. Almost 60% of these payments were made by Canadians travelling to the United States: in the second quarter, they amounted to \$1.3 billion, up 11% from 1986. Spending by Canadians in countries other than the U.S. grew at a similar rate (+12%). Canadian residents who had delayed their plans to travel abroad because of concerns for safety or travel to British Columbia for Expo 86 seem to be taking advantage of competitive air fares and a minor improvement in the Canada-U.S. exchange rate.

For further information, contact Education, Culture and Tourism Division at (613) 990-8933 or order Travel Between Canada and Other Countries (catalogue number 66-001).

Travel Account

	Q2'86	Q3'86	Q4'86	Q1'87	Q2'87
	millions of dollars				
United States					
Receipts	1,109	2,277	663	474	1,055
Payments	1,196	1,095	835	1,511	1,330
Balance	-87	1,182	-172	-1,037	-275
All other countries					
Receipts	519	825	289	219	568
Payments	699	864	673	962	783
Balance	-180	-39	-384	-743	-215
All countries balance	-267	1,143	-566	-1,780	-490

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA

Standard Geographical Classification, 1986

The Standard Geographical Classification (SGC) is a system of names and codes representing geographical areas of Canada in a three-tiered hierarchy of province, county and municipality. Related areas include census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations and subprovincial regions.

The SGC is an essential tool for tabulating statistics and identifying information for particular geographical areas. Market analysts, economists, people responsible for defining administrative districts, sales managers and others with regional concerns will benefit from its use.

The 1986 SGC, which replaces the 1981 version as the official geographical classification of Statistics Canada is organized into three volumes:

- Volume I, *The Classification*, designed as a reference and coding manual, contains tables of SGC names and codes in numerical and alphabetical order.
- Volume II, *The Reference Maps*, includes 21 multi-coloured maps which show boundaries, names and codes of SGC areas.
- Volume III, *Changes: 1981 to 1986* contains lists of changes which have affected boundaries, names and codes of counties and municipalities.

The prices are as follows: Vol.1 (catalogue number 12-571, \$55); Vol. II (catalogue number 12-572, \$35) and Vol. III (catalogue number 12-573, \$75). All three volumes may be ordered separately or as a set for \$140 from Publication Sales (613) 993-7276. For more information, contact Brenda Trower (613) 991-3466, Standards Division.



PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM AUGUST 21 - 27

AGRICULTURE

The Dairy Review, June 1987. Catalogue number 23-001 (Canada: \$10/\$100; Other Countries: \$11/\$110).

Farm Cash Receipts, January-June 1987. Catalogue number 21-001 (Canada: \$10/\$36; Other Countries: \$11/\$44).

Farm Product Price Index, June 1987. Catalogue number 62-003 (Canada: \$6/\$60; Other Countries: \$7/\$70).

AGRICULTURE - Concluded

Field Crop Reporting Series, No. 5, Stocks of Canadian Grain, July 31, 1987. Catalogue number 22-002 (Canada: \$7/\$48; Other Countries: \$8/\$54).

DEMOGRAPHY

Quarterly Demographic Statistics, January-March 1987. Catalogue number 91-002 (Canada: \$7/\$28; Other Countries: \$8/\$32).

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM AUGUST 21 - 27 - Concluded

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM

Salaries and Salary Scales of Full-time Teaching Staff at Canadian Universities, 1986-87. Catalogue number 81-258S (Canada: \$15; Other Countries: \$16).

INDUSTRY

Clothing Industries - Occupational Clothing Industry, 1985 Census of Manufactures. Catalogue number 34-252B 2492 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

Clothing Industries - Other Clothing and Apparel Industries n.e.c., 1985 Census of Manufactures. Catalogue number 34-252B 2499 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

Construction Type Plywood, June 1987. Catalogue number 35-001 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Department Store Monthly Sales, By Province and Metropolitan Area, June 1987. Catalogue number 63-004 (Canada: \$2/\$20; Other Countries: \$3/\$30).

Fruit and Vegetable Production, August 1987. Catalogue number 22-003 (Canada: \$8/\$60; Other Countries: \$9/\$68).

Oil Pipe Line Transport, May 1987. Catalogue number 55-001 (Canada: \$8/\$80; Other Countries: \$9/\$90).

Other Manufacturing Industries - Other Manufactured Products Industries n.c.a., 1985 Census of Manufactures. Catalogue number 47-250B 3999 (Canada: \$4; Other Countries: \$5).

Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard, June 1987. Catalogue number 36-003 (Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, May 1987. Catalogue number 35-003 (Canada: \$6/\$60; Other Countries: \$7/\$70).

Wholesale Trade, May 1987. Catalogue number 63-008 (Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60).

INTERNATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS

Current Economic Indicators, Vol. 3, No. 7, August 1987. Catalogue number 13-005 (Canada: \$10/\$100; Other Countries: \$11/\$110).

INTERNATIONAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS - Concluded

Quarterly Economic Summary: Statistical Supplement, July 1987. Catalogue Number 13-007E. (Canada: \$25/\$100; Other Countries: \$26/\$104)

LABOUR

Employment, Earnings and Hours, May 1987. Catalogue number 72-002. (Canada: \$35/\$350; Other Countries: \$36.50/\$365)

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Local Government Employment, January-March 1987. Catalogue number 72-009 (Canada: \$10/\$40; Other Countries: \$11/\$44).

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK

Housing Starts and Completions, May 1987. Catalogue number 64-002 (Canada: \$15/\$150; Other Countries: \$16/\$160).

Private and Public Investment in Canada, Revised Intentions 1987. Catalogue number 61-206 (Canada: \$25; Other Countries: \$26).

SERVICES

Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics, May 1987. Catalogue number 63-011 (Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60).

STANDARDS

Standard Geographical Classification, Vol. I, The Classification, 1986. Catalogue number 12-571 (Canada: \$55; Other Countries: \$75).

Standard Geographical Classification, Vol. III, Changes: 1981 to 1986. Catalogue number 12-573 (Canada: \$75; Other Countries: \$95).

TRANSPORT

Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin, Vol. 19, No. 8. Catalogue number 51-004 (Canada: \$8.50/\$85; Other Countries: \$9.50/\$95).

Railway Operating Statistics, January 1987. Catalogue number 52-003 (Canada: \$9.50/\$95; Other Countries: \$10.50/\$105).

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	June*	442.56	439.86	3.1
Labour Income (\$ million)	May	24,027	23,330	6.1
Persons with Jobs (million)	July	12.42	12.32	3.0
Unemployed (million)	July	1.2	1.1	-5.9
INVENTORIES				
Department Store (\$ million)	June*	4,179	4,540	4.0
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	May	33,811	33,767	0.3
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	June*	23,168	22,134	7.7
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	June*	24,311	24,291	-0.7
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1981 = 100)	July	139.2	138.2	4.7
New House Price Index (1981 = 100)	June	119.6	119.0	15.9
Raw Materials Price Index (1981 = 100)	June	103.9	101.8	13.2
Excl. mineral fuels	June	110.7	110.0	7.2
Industrial Product Price Index (1981 = 100)	June	122.3	121.7	3.1
CONSTRUCTION				
Building Permits (\$ million)	June*	2,290	14,433	28.9
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	June	23,637	106,371	36.4
ENERGY				
Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	May	4,694	23,606	-2.9
Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)	May	36,839	209,948	6.2
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	May	8,912	39,035	2.0
FOREIGN TRADE				
Exports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	June	10,732	61,746	1.7
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	June	10,631	56,847	1.6
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	June	1,017	5,455	1.4
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	June*	23,147	128,304	1.4
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	June	2,568	12,480	10.6
Refined Petroleum Products (thousand cubic metres)	June	6,987	37,405	3.0
Retail Sales (\$ million)	June	13,477	71,564	8.8

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

Livestock Report

Total numbers of pigs in Canada as of July 1, 1987, were estimated at 10,286,500, an increase of 4% from the level recorded a year ago. In the West, numbers were up 7% while in the East the increase was only 3%.

Cattle and calves in Canada, as of July 1, totalled 11,690,900 head. Numbers dropped by 4% in the eastern provinces from the same period last year, while in the West cattle and calves were 1% higher than in 1986.

Total numbers of beef cows increased slightly, up 1% from the same period last year. Beef heifers to be used for breeding also rose, 3% higher than the level recorded as of July 1, 1986.

Total sheep and lamb were estimated at 696,900 at July 1, 1987. This level is virtually unchanged from that of one year ago.

For further information, contact Agriculture Division at (613) 991-2509 or order Livestock Report (catalogue number 23-008).



1010718216

KEY RELEASE CALENDAR: September 1987*

MON.	TUE.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.
	1	2	3	4 Labour Force Survey, Aug. Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, July
7	8 Canadian Composite Leading Indicator, June	9 New Housing Price Index, July	10 Help-wanted Index, Aug. Department Store Sales, July Estimate of Labour Income, June	11 Canadian International Trade, July Farm Product Price Index, July New Motor Vehicle Sales, July
14 Housing Starts, July	15 Financial Activity in Canada, Second Quarter	16 Capacity Utilization Rates, Second Quarter	17 Financial Institutions: Financial Statistics, Second Quarter	18 Consumer Price Index, Aug. Retail Trade, July
21 Building Permits, July Sales of Refined Petroleum Products, July	22 Department Store Sales and Stocks, July	23 Inventories, Shipments and Orders, July	24 Wholesale Trade, July	25
28 Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost, July	29 Security Transactions, July Employment, Earnings and Hours, July	30 Unemployment Insurance, July Canada's Trade in Auto- motive Products, Second Quarter	1 Industrial Product Price Index, Aug. Raw Materials Price Index, Aug.	

* Release dates for International Trade, the Consumer Price Index and the Labour Force Survey are fixed, dates for other data series may vary slightly.

INFOMAT

A WEEKLY REVIEW

Published by the Communications Division (Director – Tim Davis), Statistics Canada.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613) 991-1103

Editor: Wanda Wegman (613) 991-1088

R.H. Coats Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

Catalogue: 11-002E. Price: Canada, \$2/\$100; other countries, \$3/\$150. To subscribe: send money order or cheque payable to the Receiver General for Canada/Publication Sales, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6 or telephone Publication Sales at (613) 993-7276.

Published under the authority of the Minister of Supply and Services Canada. Statistics Canada should be credited when reproducing or quoting any part of this document.