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

STATISTICS STATISTIQUE
CANADA CANADA

Friday, May 27, 1988

OVERVIEW

MAY 27 1988

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■ Travel Account Deficit Unchanged

The deficit on the travel account in the first quarter of 1988 was \$1.8 billion, unchanged from the first quarter of 1987. Receipts rose by approximately \$120 million, mainly due to the Winter Olympics, but were offset by a slightly larger increase in payments.

■ Number of U.I. Beneficiaries Stable

In March, the number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries was unchanged from the previous month, continuing the trend noted since October.

■ Consumer Price Increases Hover Around 4.0%

In April, the year-over-year increase in the consumer price index was 4.0%, down slightly from 4.1% in March. Generally, the change in the CPI has moved within a narrow range since December.

■ Wholesale Trade Continues to Register Strong Growth

In March, wholesalers reported that sales were 16.1% higher than a year earlier, continuing the trend of strong growth. Of particular interest was the 23.4% sales increase reported by wholesalers of electrical and non-electrical machinery and equipment.

This issue also includes information on **Human Resources for Science and Technology**.

Travel Account Deficit Unchanged

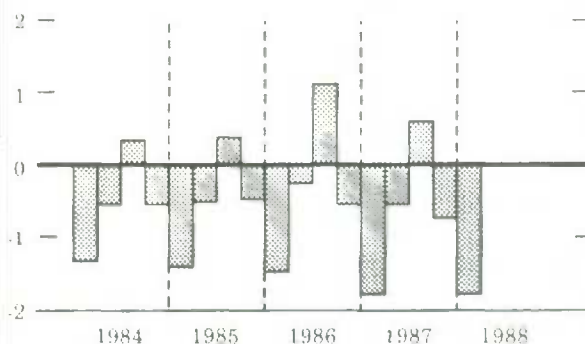
Unadjusted for seasonal variations, Canada's travel account recorded a deficit of \$1.8 billion during the first quarter of 1988, unchanged from the same period of 1987. The travel account traditionally registers its largest quarterly deficit during the first quarter of the year, when many Canadians travel to warmer climates and tourism to Canada drops to its lowest level.

- At \$522 million, receipts from the United States were up 10% from the first quarter of 1987, the second consecutive increase after the declines witnessed in the second and third quarters of 1987.
- Receipts from visitors from countries other than the U.S. reached \$297 million, up 36% over the first quarter of 1987, a rate of increase comparable to the ones experienced during Expo 86. This increase was largely due to the Winter Olympic Games in Calgary.

(continued on page 2)

Travel Account Balance

(billions of dollars)



Statistics Canada
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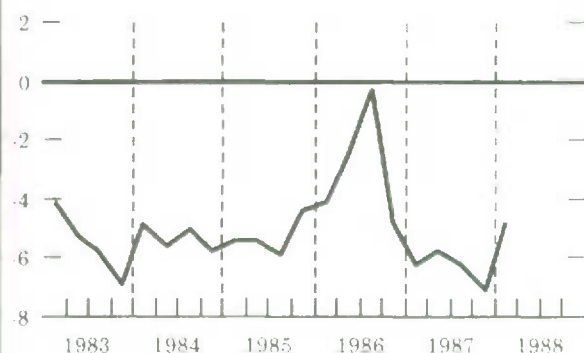
Canada

... Travel Account Deficit Unchanged

- Receipts from visitors from other countries accounted for 36% of total receipts in the first quarter of this year. Prior to 1988, the share had stayed very near 30% since 1980.
- Total payments by Canadian residents increased during the first quarter of the year, but at a markedly slower rate than in 1987. Travel payments to the United States were up 4% to \$1,572 million, while payments to all other countries rose 7% to \$1,033 million.

Travel Account Balance

(billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted)



- While the United States remains the largest recipient of Canadian travel dollars, travel payments made to other countries in the first quarter have increased faster than those made to the United States every year since 1983. The market share of other countries was 40% in the first quarter of 1988, up from 32% in the first quarter of 1983. A large part of this trend can be explained by the fact that Canadians seeking warmer climates are travelling more frequently to destinations south of the United States, such as Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and the Caribbean rather than to destinations in the southern United States.
- International travel is affected by seasonality (i.e. school holidays, vacations and the weather). The adjustment of data to minimize the seasonal impact gives clearer definition to the long term historical trends of tourism activity.
- Seasonally adjusted, Canada's travel deficit reached \$480 million in the first quarter of 1988, the lowest level since the third quarter of 1986. Deficits on the travel account had increased in the third and fourth quarters of 1987.

For further information, contact the Education, Culture and Tourism Division at (613) 951-8933 or order *Travel Between Canada and Other Countries* (catalogue number 66-001).

Number of U.I. Beneficiaries Stable

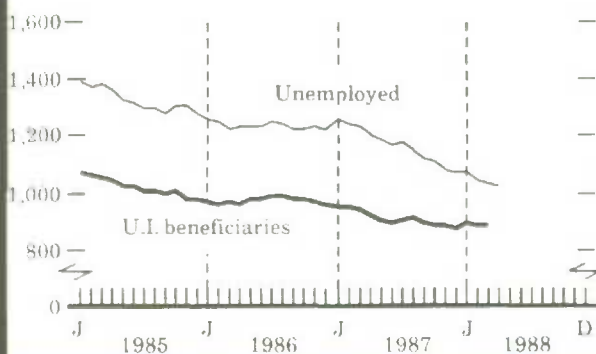
Preliminary estimates for March indicate that the number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits totalled 881,000, seasonally adjusted, virtually unchanged from the preceding month. The number of beneficiaries has generally been quite stable since October 1987 when it stood at 884,000.

While most provinces recorded little or no change, decreases in the number of beneficiaries were noted in the Yukon (2.1%), the Northwest Territories (1.5%), Saskatchewan (1.4%) and Newfoundland (1.2%).

Benefits paid during the first three months of 1988 totalled \$3,307 million, up 4.3% from the same period a year ago. These data reflect a 6.2% increase in average weekly benefits and a 1.8% decrease in the number of weeks of benefit paid.

U.I. Regular Beneficiaries and Total Unemployed

(Thousands, seasonally adjusted)



For further information, contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4045 or order *Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (catalogue number 73-001).

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Feb.	455.73	454.50	4.4
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.	24,221	24,217	6.6
Persons with Jobs (million)	Apr.	12.08	12.00	3.8
Unemployed (thousand)	Apr.	1,085	1,181	-14.6
INVENTORIES				
Department Store (\$ million)	Feb.	4,208	3,749	4.8
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb.	35,371	34,911	5.2
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	22,408	21,518	9.2
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	25,013	24,747	4.7
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1981 = 100)	Apr.*	142.5	142.0	4.0
New House Price Index (1981 = 100)	Mar.	126.0	124.9	8.1
Raw Materials Price Index (1981 = 100)	Mar.	98.3	98.9	0.8
Excl. minerals fuels	Mar.	113.0	112.1	8.5
Industrial Product Price Index (1981 = 100)	Mar.	125.9	125.5	4.6
CONSTRUCTION				
			Year-to-date	
Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec.	2,409	30,437	23.3
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	Feb.	9,173	20,860	-13.6
ENERGY				
Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Feb.	5,749	11,941	26.3
Electricity Generation (gigawatt hours)	Feb.	45,937	94,884	4.9
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Jan.	12,462	12,462	2.9
FOREIGN TRADE				
Exports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Mar.	12,013	33,347	10.2
Imports - Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Mar.	11,718	31,581	15.0
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	715	1,445	2.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.	22,143	43,300	8.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	1,730	3,223	13.9
Refined Petroleum Products (thousand cubic metres)	Mar.	6,888	20,076	7.0
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	11,100	22,300	9.9

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

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA

Human Resources for Science and Technology

One of the most important resources that a country has is its human capital. In what is often referred to as the third industrial revolution, that of micro-electronics and computers, highly qualified personnel will become the key component of all economic development strategies. The extent to which this factor will contribute to the growth of Canada's well-being depends primarily on the quality and training of present and future human resources. It is therefore important both to document the current status of human resources and to construct an analytical framework capable of identifying requirements for highly qualified personnel.

Human Resources for Science and Technology describes problems involved in creating, analysing and using human resource indicators in science and technology policy formulation. The most widely accepted definitions and methods and the sources (using a national perspective) are also discussed.

For further information, contact Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division at (613) 951-9921 or order Human Resources for Science and Technology (catalogue number 88-508E).

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM MAY 20 - 26

AGRICULTURE

Farm Product Price Index, March 1988. Catalogue number 62-003 (Canada: \$6.50/\$65; Other Countries: \$7.50/\$75).

Livestock Report - Pigs, April 1, 1988. Catalogue number 23-008 (Canada: \$15/\$60; Other Countries: \$16/\$64).

Stocks of Food Commodities in Cold Storage and Other Warehouses, 1987. Catalogue number 32-217 (Canada: \$30; Other Countries: \$31.50).

CENSUS

Profiles - Urban and Rural Areas, Canada, Provinces and Territories: Part I, 1986 Census. Catalogue number 94-129 (Canada: \$33; Other Countries: \$34.50).

INDUSTRY

Beverage and Tobacco Products Industries, 1985. Catalogue number 32-251 (Canada: \$30; Other Countries: \$31.50).

Coal and Coke Statistics, February 1988. Catalogue number 45-002 (Canada: \$9/\$90; Other Countries: \$10/\$100).

Electrical and Electronic Products Industries, 1985. Catalogue number 43-250 (Canada: \$30; Other Countries: \$31.50).

Electric Power Statistics, February 1988. Catalogue number 57-001 (Canada: \$9/\$90; Other Countries: \$10/\$100).

Furniture and Fixtures Industries, 1985. Catalogue number 35-251 (Canada: \$30; Other Countries: \$31.50).

Gas Utilities, January 1988. Catalogue number 55-002 (Canada: \$11.50/\$115; Other Countries: \$12.50/\$125).

Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, February 1988. Catalogue number 31-001 (Canada: \$16.50/\$165; Other Countries: \$17.50/\$175).

Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries, 1985. Catalogue number 36-251 (Canada: \$30; Other Countries: \$31.50).

INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS

Gross Domestic Product by Industry, February 1988. Catalogue number 15-001 (Canada: \$11.50/\$115; Other Countries: \$12.50/\$125).

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CAPITAL STOCK

Capital and Repair Expenditures - Manufacturing Sub-industries, Intentions 1988. Catalogue number 61-214 (Canada: \$15; Other Countries: \$16).

Human Resources for Science and Technology, 1971-1984. Catalogue number 88-508E (Canada: \$36; Other Countries: \$37).

Private and Public Investment in Canada, Intentions 1988. Catalogue number 61-205 (Canada: \$28; Other Countries: \$29).

SERVICES

Telephone Statistics, January 1988. Catalogue number 56-002 (Canada: \$7.50/\$75; Other Countries: \$8.50/\$85).

TRANSPORT

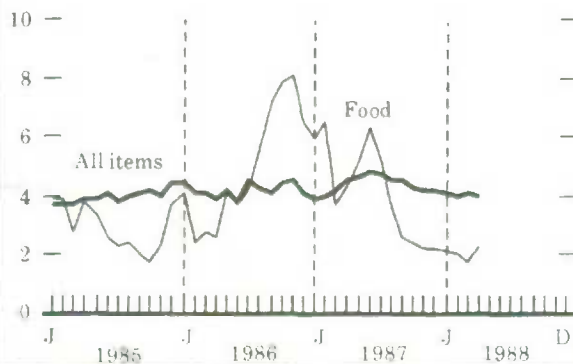
Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin, Vol. 20, No. 5. Catalogue number 51-004 (Canada: \$8.50/\$85; Other Countries: \$9.50/\$95).

Consumer Price Increases Hover Around 4.0%

In April, the year-over-year increase in the Consumer Price Index (1981=100) was 4.0%, down slightly from 4.1% in March. Generally, the year-over-year movement in the CPI has moved within a narrow range for five months. On a month-over-month basis, the CPI was up 0.4% in April. All seven major components registered increases which ranged from 0.1% to 0.9%. The food component accounted for 30% of the overall rise.

Consumer Price Index

(% change, previous year)



Consumer Price Index

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
	% change, previous month				
All-items	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.4
Food	-0.2	1.1	-0.1	-0.3	0.5
All-items, excl. food	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.3

The food index advanced 0.5% in April, following a decline of 0.3% in March. This index had been an important component of the trend to more moderate increases in the CPI. Compared to April 1987, the food index was 2.3% higher, up from 1.8% registered for the 12-month period ending in March. The latest rise has ended the decelerating trend observed for this index since July 1987.

On a month-over-month basis, the all-items excluding food index rose 0.3% in April, slowing from the 0.7% advance noted in March. Changes in the clothing, housing, and tobacco products and alcoholic beverages components were major contributors to the latest change. The year-over-year change also showed a deceleration in April. It was 4.5%, down from the 4.7% reported for the previous 12-month period.

For further information, contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9606 or order *The Consumer Price Index* (catalogue number 62-001).

Wholesale Trade Continues to Register Strong Growth

Preliminary estimates indicate that wholesale merchants' sales for March 1988 were 16.1% above those of March 1987.

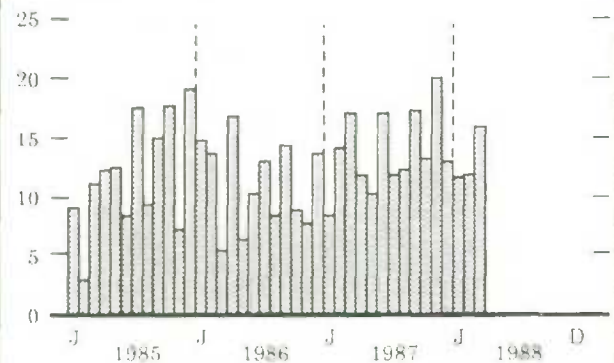
In March, all major trade groups within wholesale trade registered increased sales over a year earlier. Wholesalers of electrical and non-electrical machinery, equipment and supplies posted an increase of 23.4%, consistent with higher imports and strengthening investment in machinery and equipment.

In the first three months of 1988, cumulative sales were up 13.3% compared to the corresponding period in 1987. Wholesale trade increases between the first three months of 1988 and the corresponding period in 1987 were posted in all regions. The growth was led by the Prairies (20.4%), the Atlantic provinces (15.4%), and Quebec (14.5%). Ontario lagged behind slightly (11.3%) and so did British Columbia, Yukon and the Northwest Territories (9.1%). The Prairies have been leading all other regions since June 1987.

The two groups of merchants that led the growth of sales for the first quarter of 1988 were wholesalers of metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment (23.9%) and wholesalers of electrical machinery, equipment and supplies (20.8%).

Wholesale Merchants' Sales

(% change, previous year)



Inventory levels in March 1988 were 12.0% higher than those reported in March 1987. The ratio of inventories to sales at the end of March 1988 stood at 1.66:1, down slightly from 1.69:1 recorded in the corresponding month of 1987.

For further information, contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3541 or order *Wholesale Trade* (catalogue number 63-008).



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KEY RELEASE CALENDAR: June 1988*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Retail Trade, March Inventories, Shipments and Orders, March	2 Department Store Sales and Stocks, March Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics, 1 st Quarter	3
6 International Travel, April	7 Composite Leading Indica- tor, March	8	9 Help-wanted Index, May New Housing Price Index, April	10 Labour Force Survey, May New Motor Vehicle Sales, April Farm Product Price Index, April
13 Department Store Sales, April	14 Housing Starts, April	15 International Trade, April	16 Capacity Utilization Rates, 1 st Quarter	17 Consumer Price Index, May Building Permits, February
20 National Income and Ex- penditure, 1 st Quarter Balance of Payments, 1 st Quarter	21 Retail Trade, April Department Store Sales and Stocks, April	22 Inventories, Shipments and Orders, April	23	24 Wholesale Trade, April
27 Crude Oil and Natural Gas, March	28 Employment, Earnings and Hours, April Labour Income, March	29 Gross Domestic Product, April Financial Flow Accounts, 1 st Quarter Unemployment Insurance Statistics, April	30 Security Transactions, April Industrial Product Price Index, May Raw Materials Price Index, May	

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

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