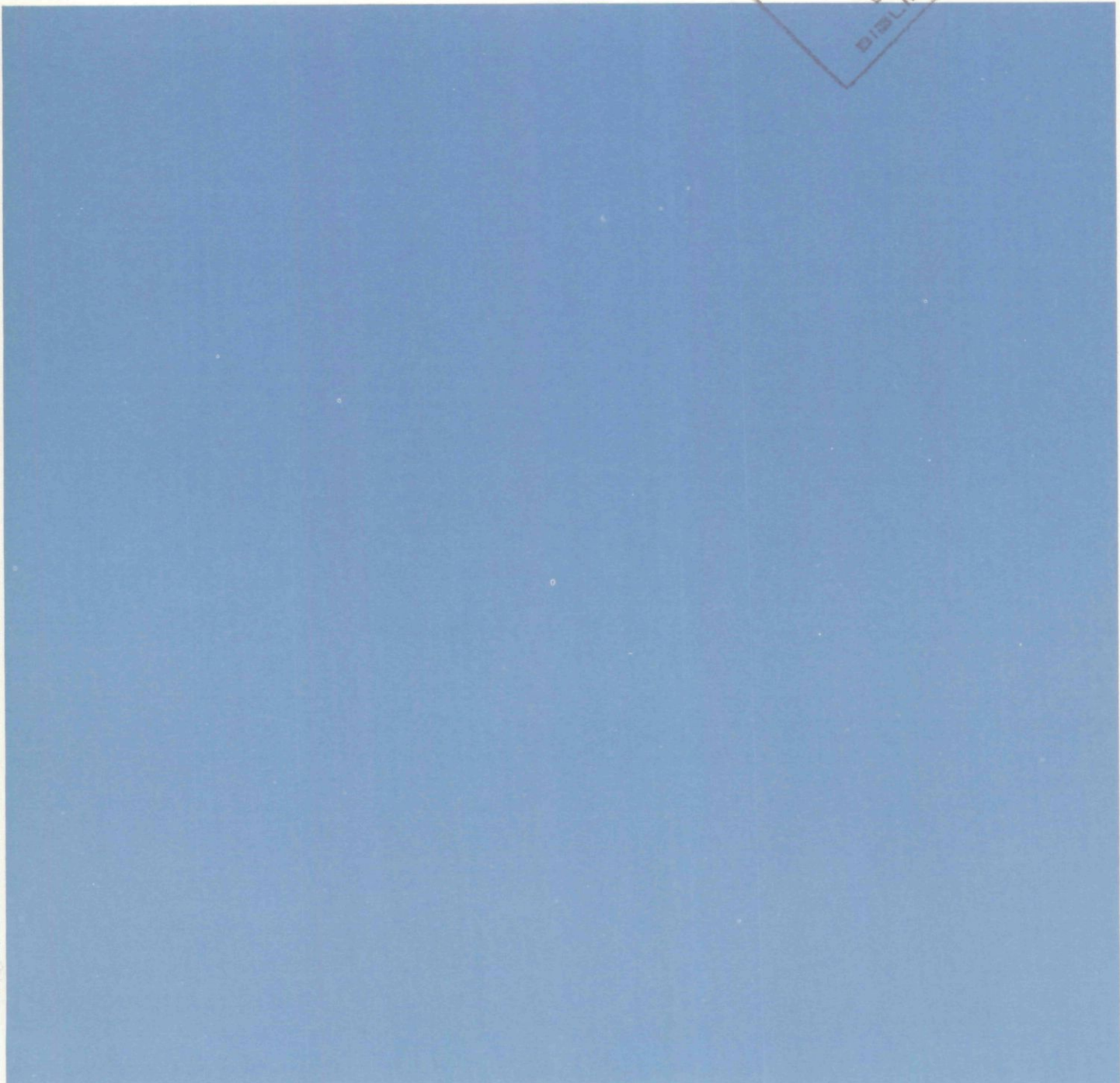
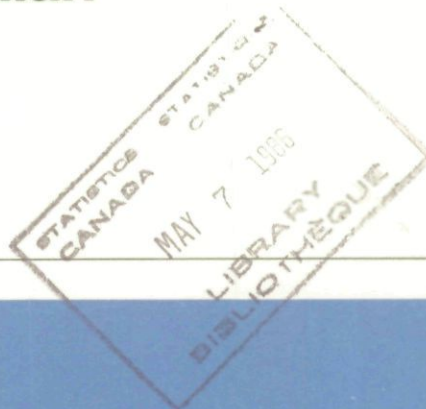


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Preliminary statement of Canadian international trade

March 1986

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Statistics Canada
International Trade Division

Preliminary statement of Canadian international trade

March 1986

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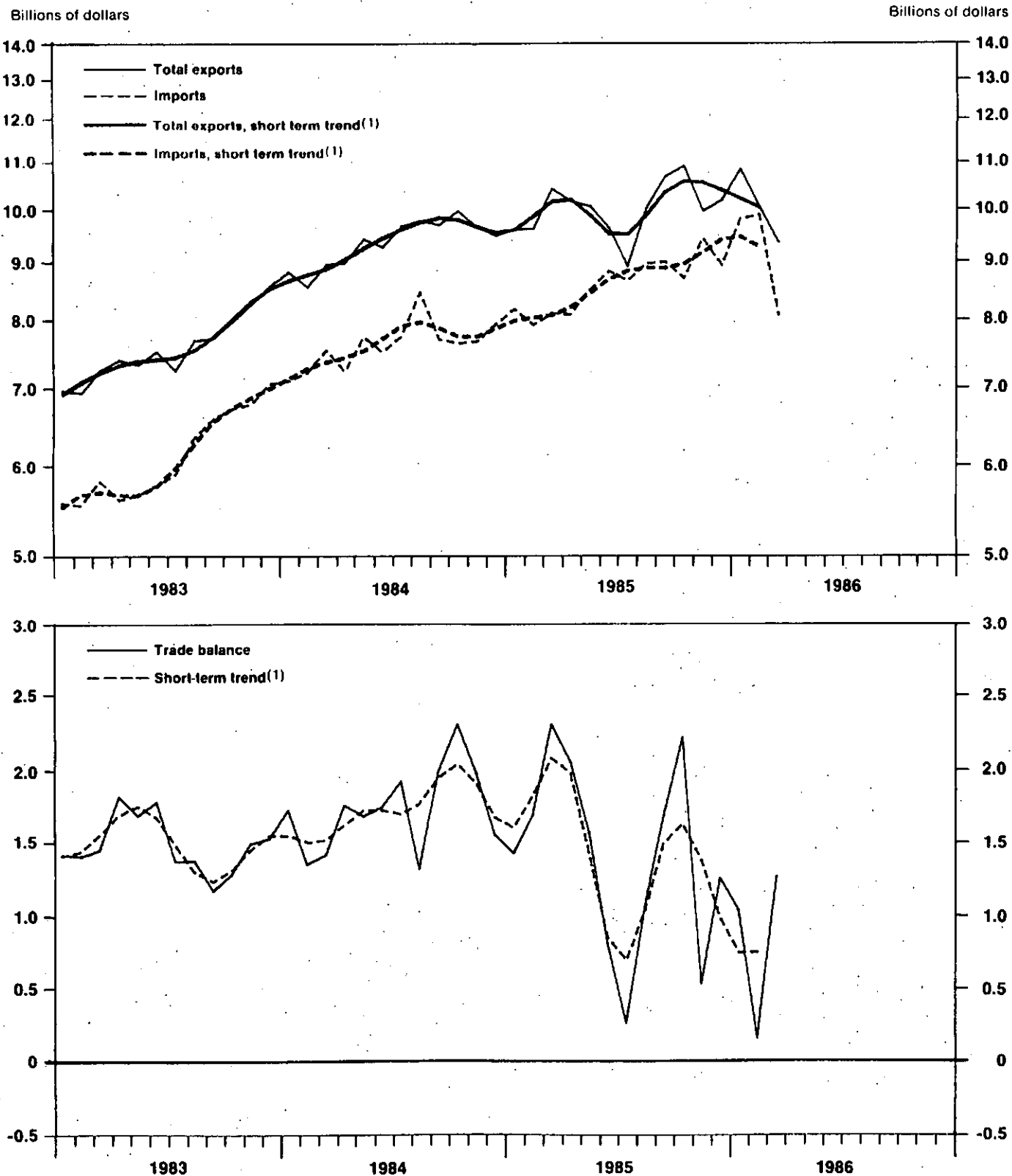
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Charts	5
Commentary	6
Tables	
1. Merchandise Trade of Canada	8
2. Merchandise Trade by Principal Trading Areas	9
3. Total Exports by Commodity	10
4. Imports by Commodity	11
5. Constant Dollars and Laspeyres Price Indexes	12

Imports, Total Exports, and Trade Balance, All Countries, Seasonally Adjusted Balance of Payments Basis



(1) The short-term trend gives a clearer picture of the direction and rate of change of trade by averaging the substantial monthly fluctuations which frequently occur in trade. The trend for the last month is not shown in the charts above since it frequently changes significantly with the addition of succeeding months of data.

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis

March 1986

Overview Month-to-Month

Preliminary March estimates revealed that total exports declined 6.9% or \$689 million to \$9.3 billion following a drop of 7.5% in February. Imports suffered an unusually large decline in March, falling 18.3% or \$1.8 billion from the record \$9.9 billion in February. The net effect on the merchandise trade surplus was an increase of \$1.1 billion to a level of \$1.3 billion.

Data users should note that the unusually large drop in March imports coincided with a smaller number of trading days due to Easter occurring in March for the first time in eight years.

Overview Quarter-to-Quarter

Exports in the first quarter fell 2.6% to \$30.2 billion following a 4.8% increase in the fourth quarter. The decline was primarily attributable to a 26.7% decline in energy products. Imports rose 2.7% to \$27.8 billion in the first quarter despite the large monthly decline in March. This marks the fifth consecutive quarterly increase in imports. As a result, the merchandise trade surplus declined \$1.5 billion in the first quarter.

Short-Term Trend

Total Exports

In the current period, the short-term trend for exports continued the descent begun late in 1985. Exports of energy products were the primary contributor followed by exports of automotive products and to a lesser extent, exports of agricultural and fishing products. The short-term trend for exports of industrial goods and materials and forestry products remained positive.

Imports

In the current period, the modest growth observed in the short-term trend up to January has been halted. The decline in February was widespread as the short-term trends for automotive products, machinery and equipment, industrial goods and materials, energy and forestry products all turned down. Other consumer goods and agricultural and fishing products registered marginal gains in the period.

Commodity Highlights

Total Exports

The decline in exports was evident in all major commodity groupings except for forestry and energy products; both posted small gains. Wheat declined a further 41.9% in March following a drop of 19.5% in February and accounted for the decline in agricultural products. Industrial goods registered widespread declines dropping 12.0% after a 10.1% fall last month. Automotive products registered a further drop of 6.5% largely due to automotive parts. Machinery and equipment posted a sharp reversal, declining 8.3% in March after a gain of 10.9% in February. Exports of industrial machinery and aircraft were the main factors.

Imports

The decline in imports was evident in all commodity groupings. The automotive sector declined 13.2% following a drop of 2.0% last month. Industrial goods and materials dropped a further 16.2% after a 7.3% decline in February. Similar movements were registered in machinery and equipment which dropped 19.0% after a 2.2% increase; agricultural products which fell 19.5% after an 8.9% rise and in other consumer goods which dropped 13.8% in March after an increase of 5.8%. Energy products plummeted 46.9% in March, primarily due to falling imports of crude petroleum.

(continued on page 7)

Trading Partner Highlights

Exports

Except for other OECD countries, exports to all of Canada's trading partners registered declines. Exports to the United States dropped 6.5% following a similar decline last month and accounted for nearly 75% of the fall. Exports to Japan fell 7.4% after a drop of 9.0% in February.

Imports

Without exception, declines were observed in imports from all of Canada's trading partners. The 13.5% decline in imports from the United

States accounted for more than 50% of the drop. Japan posted a sharp reversal, falling 16.9% after increasing 32.1% in February. Imports from the rest of the world registered similar reversals.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 30, 3633, 3638, 3651-3678, 3685-3713, 3718 and 3719.

Order the March 1986 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$15/\$150), available the fourth week of May 1986 or contact G. Blaney (613-990-9647), Trade Information Unit, or Judith Frederick (613-990-9784), Trade Measures and Analysis Section, International Trade Division.

Table 1
Merchandise Trade of Canada

March 1986

Balance of Payments Basis

	Total exports ¹ raw	Imports raw	Total exports ¹ S.A. ³	Imports S.A. ³	Balance S.A. ³	Period-to-period change ²		
						Total exports ¹ S.A. ³	Imports S.A. ³	Balance S.A. ³
	\$ millions			%	%	\$ millions		
1980	76,680	67,901	76,680	67,901	8,779	16.9	11.0	4,354
1981	84,468	77,140	84,468	77,140	7,328	10.2	13.6	-1,451
1982	84,540	66,726	84,540	66,726	17,814	0.1	-13.5	10,486
1983	90,825	73,120	90,825	73,120	17,705	7.4	9.6	-109
1984	112,118	91,450	112,118	91,450	20,667	23.4	25.1	2,963
1985	120,095	103,278	120,095	103,278	16,817	7.1	12.9	-3,851
1984								
First Quarter	25,776	21,818	26,298	21,832	4,465	6.1	6.4	184
Second Quarter	29,341	24,161	27,642	22,479	5,163	5.1	3.0	698
Third Quarter	27,663	22,696	29,108	23,898	5,210	5.3	6.3	47
Fourth Quarter	29,338	22,775	29,070	23,241	5,829	-0.1	-2.8	619
1985								
First Quarter	28,912	23,800	29,623	24,211	5,413	1.9	4.2	-416
Second Quarter	31,689	27,390	29,820	25,408	4,412	0.7	4.9	-1,001
Third Quarter	28,077	25,602	29,609	26,610	2,999	-0.7	4.7	-1,413
Fourth Quarter	31,416	26,486	31,042	27,049	3,993	4.8	1.6	995
1986								
First Quarter	29,128	27,113	30,223	27,778	2,445	-2.6	2.7	-1,548
1985								
January	9,138	7,707	9,599	8,176	1,423	1.3	3.1	-125
February	9,164	7,631	9,611	7,927	1,684	0.1	-3.0	262
March	10,610	8,462	10,413	8,108	2,305	8.3	2.3	620
April	10,465	9,118	10,142	8,092	2,050	-2.6	-0.2	-255
May	10,895	9,227	10,053	8,492	1,561	-0.9	4.9	-489
June	10,329	9,044	9,626	8,825	801	-4.2	3.9	-760
July	8,555	8,718	8,912	8,654	258	-7.4	-1.9	-543
August	8,956	8,252	10,013	8,958	1,055	12.4	3.5	798
September	10,566	8,633	10,683	8,998	1,685	6.7	0.5	630
October	11,234	9,207	10,914	8,697	2,217	2.2	-3.3	531
November	10,347	9,237	9,950	9,423	527	-8.8	8.3	-1,690
December	9,835	8,042	10,179	8,928	1,251	2.3	-5.2	724
1986								
January	10,060	9,054	10,843	9,808	1,035	6.5	9.8	-215
February	9,413	9,425	10,034	9,890	144	-7.5	0.8	-891
March	9,655	8,633	9,345	8,080	1,265	-6.9	-18.3	1,121
Year-to-date								
1985	28,912	23,800	29,623	24,211	5,413	12.6	10.9	947
1986	29,128	27,113	30,223	27,778	2,445	2.0	14.7	-2,968

¹ Total Exports = Domestic Exports + Re-exports.² Year-to-year, quarter-to-quarter, month-to-month.³ Seasonally Adjusted.

Note: Due to rounding monthly data may not add up to quarterly data and quarterly data may not add up to annual data.

Table 2
Merchandise Trade by Principal Trading Areas
 March 1986
 Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis

	Feb.	Mar.	Period-to-period change				Year-to-date	Change over previous year	
			Feb.	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.		Year-to-date	Change over previous year
			\$ millions	%	%	\$ millions			
Total exports to:									
United States	7,800.0	7,289.4	-6.4	-6.5	-529.1	-510.6	23,418.6	2.7	611.0
Japan	454.2	420.5	-9.0	-7.4	-45.2	-33.8	1,374.1	-13.6	-217.0
United Kingdom	233.5	199.0	5.7	-14.8	12.6	-34.6	653.5	17.4	96.9
Other EEC Countries	456.9	379.0	2.8	-17.0	12.2	-77.9	1,280.6	11.5	132.4
Other OECD Countries	150.0	179.3	-40.9	19.5	-103.9	29.2	583.2	-1.6	-9.4
Other Countries	939.2	878.1	-14.3	-6.5	-156.1	-61.1	2,912.7	-0.5	-14.5
Total	10,034.0	9,345.2	-7.5	-6.9	-809.4	-688.8	30,222.7	2.0	599.3
Imports from:									
United States	6,749.9	5,835.6	-3.7	-13.5	-262.6	-914.3	19,597.9	9.4	1,687.3
Japan	650.1	540.2	32.1	-16.9	157.8	-109.9	1,682.5	23.8	323.0
United Kingdom	426.3	225.4	5.9	-47.1	23.8	-200.9	1,054.2	147.8	628.8
Other EEC Countries	813.1	594.3	8.2	-26.9	61.4	-218.7	2,159.2	44.1	660.5
Other OECD Countries	251.1	175.9	17.5	-30.0	37.5	-75.2	640.6	11.4	65.6
Other Countries	999.2	708.9	6.9	-29.1	64.1	-290.3	2,643.3	8.3	201.7
Total	9,889.7	8,080.3	0.8	-18.3	82.0	-1809.3	27,777.6	14.7	3,566.9
Balance with:									
United States	1,050.1	1,453.8			-266.6	403.6	3,820.6		-1,076.3
Japan	-195.8	-119.7			-203.0	76.1	-308.4		-540.1
United Kingdom	-192.8	-26.5			-11.2	166.3	-400.8		-531.9
Other EEC Countries	-356.2	-215.3			-49.1	140.8	-878.5		-528.1
Other OECD Countries	-101.1	3.4			-141.3	104.5	-57.4		-75.0
Other Countries	-60.0	169.2			-220.2	229.2	269.4		-216.1
Total	144.3	1,264.9			-891.4	1120.6	2,445.0		-2,967.6

Note: Prior to 1986 Portugal and Spain were not included in the EEC.

Table 3
Total Exports by Commodity
 March 1986
 Balance of Payments Basis

	Seasonally adjusted					Raw values		
						Percentage changes		
	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Year-to-date		Mar. '86/ Mar. '85	Mar. '85/ Mar. '84	Mar. '84/ Mar. '83
Value				% change				
	\$ millions							
Agricultural and fishing products	820.8	964.8	1,088.7	2,874.3	11.7	-5.8	-4.2	-9.1
Wheat	207.1	356.1	442.2	1,005.3	22.2	-24.8	-11.7	-35.3
Other agricultural and fishing products	613.8	608.7	646.5	1,869.0	6.8	0.4	-1.5	6.4
Energy products	927.5	919.5	1,316.0	3,163.1	-20.2	-43.6	36.7	15.5
Crude petroleum*	249.5	234.4	436.3	920.2	-27.4	-55.2	55.1	34.4
Natural gas	202.1	243.0	284.8	729.8	-28.7	-43.2	14.4	-11.3
Other energy products	475.9	442.2	594.9	1,513.1	-9.4	-34.3	38.7	29.2
Forestry products	1,443.1	1,408.6	1,402.3	4,254.0	6.6	5.6	22.7	5.5
Lumber and sawmill products	526.9	522.8	545.6	1,595.3	16.2	10.2	1.4	22.1
Wood pulp and other wood products	340.5	304.5	285.2	930.2	0.6	9.5	51.6	-21.5
Newsprint and other paper and paperboard	575.6	581.4	571.6	1,728.6	2.1	-0.7	32.8	7.1
Industrial goods and materials	1,701.8	1,934.8	2,151.0	5,787.7	-4.8	-17.0	14.7	22.5
Metal ores	285.6	334.7	397.9	1,018.2	1.8	-1.3	-2.6	29.1
Chemicals, plastics and fertilizers	427.2	415.3	465.9	1,308.4	-14.9	-20.3	19.6	12.1
Metals and alloys	588.4	728.1	805.3	2,121.8	-0.6	-19.9	8.0	24.6
Other industrial goods and materials	400.5	456.8	482.0	1,339.3	-4.9	-16.4	33.5	29.8
Machinery and equipment	1,418.8	1,546.6	1,394.9	4,360.4	7.6	0.7	8.2	25.2
Industrial and agricultural machinery	321.0	401.3	332.4	1,054.7	3.1	-12.2	8.4	30.4
Aircraft and other transportation equip.	303.4	347.6	304.2	955.2	28.0	21.4	11.2	-12.7
Other machinery and equipment	794.4	797.7	758.4	2,350.5	3.0	-0.5	7.0	43.4
Automotive products	2,691.9	2,879.6	3,111.4	8,682.9	9.3	3.1	12.7	46.6
Passenger autos and chassis	1,282.7	1,311.1	1,377.6	3,971.4	18.6	12.6	7.2	55.0
Trucks and other motor vehicles	513.1	570.6	651.3	1,734.9	0.1	-11.3	27.8	44.1
Motor vehicle parts	896.1	997.9	1,082.5	2,976.5	3.9	-0.7	12.2	37.6
Other consumer goods	163.1	183.5	187.5	534.1	15.1	2.7	1.4	25.4
Special transactions trade*	29.3	31.4	22.3	83.0	-20.2	-35.2	25.2	93.0
Unallocated BOP adjustments	148.9	165.2	169.2	483.2	6.6	-5.9	39.7	138.4
Total exports	9,345.2	10,034.0	10,843.4	30,222.7	2.0	-9.0	15.6	22.5

* Series has no seasonality. Figures are unadjusted.

Total Exports by Major Country Groupings, 1983 to 1986

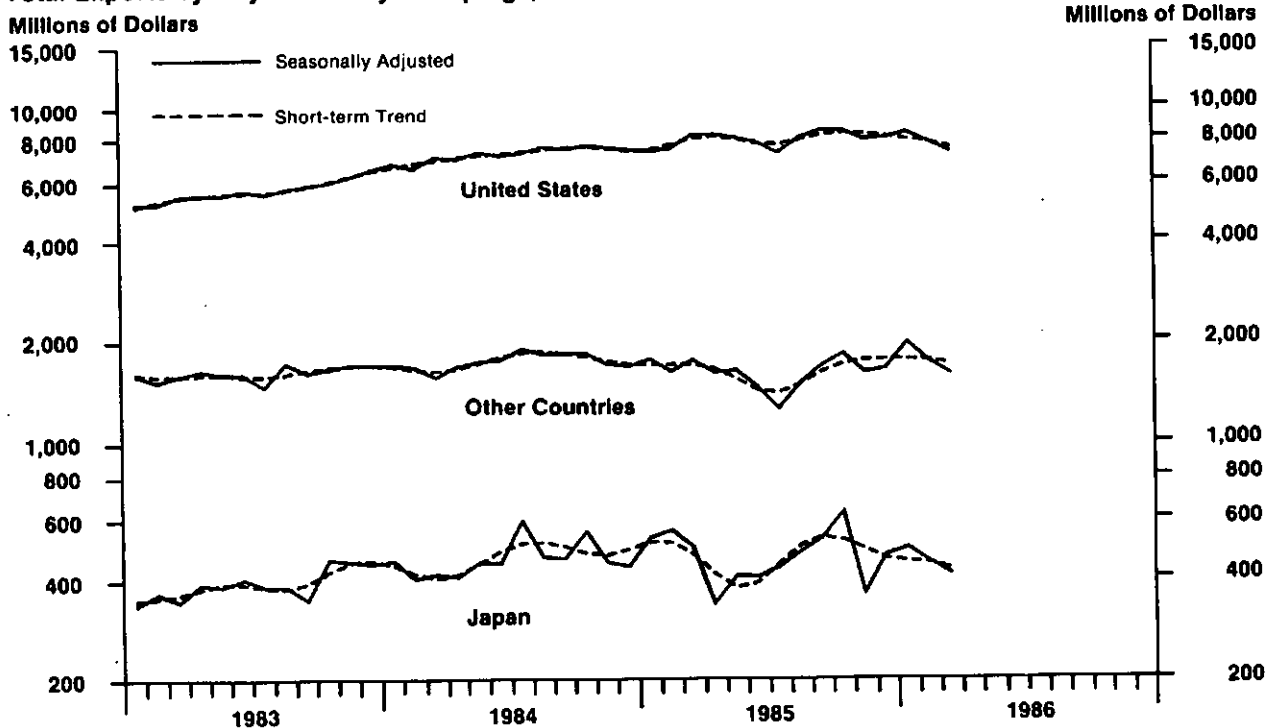


Table 4
Imports by Commodity
 March 1986
 Balance of Payments Basis

	Seasonally adjusted					Raw values		
	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Year-to-date		Percentage changes		
				Value	% change	Mar. '86/ Mar. '85	Mar. '85/ Mar. '84	Mar. '84/ Mar. '83
	\$ millions							
Agricultural and fishing products	499.1	620.0	569.4	1,688.5	4.1	-8.0	-1.2	21.6
Fruits and vegetables	154.8	201.4	199.8	556.1	-1.9	-17.8	-3.0	27.3
Other agricultural and fishing products	344.2	418.6	369.6	1,132.4	7.2	-2.5	-0.2	18.5
Energy products	379.5	715.0	628.8	1,723.2	45.2	0.5	-40.8	33.6
Crude petroleum	177.8	474.3	362.3	1,014.4	81.9	4.6	-52.7	21.0
Other energy products	201.7	240.7	266.4	708.8	12.7	-5.4	-6.7	90.6
Forestry products	69.0	88.5	76.7	234.2	8.7	-4.9	1.3	25.0
Industrial goods and materials	1,415.7	1,689.0	1,821.3	4,926.0	13.4	-7.1	13.7	14.9
Metals and metal ores	454.0	495.9	678.4	1,628.4	19.5	-8.8	42.2	2.7
Chemicals and plastics	406.8	507.0	485.5	1,399.3	8.7	-7.9	1.6	12.1
Other industrial goods and materials	554.9	686.0	657.4	1,898.3	11.9	-5.2	7.3	25.8
Machinery and equipment	2,185.1	2,697.4	2,640.4	7,522.8	11.3	-3.5	3.3	19.4
Industrial and agricultural machinery	782.7	971.9	910.4	2,665.1	20.3	3.0	8.1	31.9
Aircraft and other transportation equip.	260.5	392.5	430.4	1,083.4	17.0	-1.1	-21.6	-28.1
Office machines and equipment	323.7	386.4	370.9	1,080.9	-0.2	-13.3	10.9	38.2
Other machinery and equipment	818.1	946.6	928.7	2,693.4	6.3	-5.4	6.2	37.5
Automotive products	2,582.5	2,973.6	3,035.6	8,591.7	13.9	13.4	11.3	61.9
Passenger autos and chassis	914.8	1,157.4	1,285.1	3,357.3	21.2	11.5	37.5	47.1
Trucks and other motor vehicles	229.3	292.0	270.5	791.8	20.2	6.5	5.9	57.8
Motor vehicle parts	1,438.4	1,524.3	1,480.0	4,442.6	8.1	16.3	-2.5	72.6
Other consumer goods	875.8	1,016.1	960.5	2,852.4	15.4	3.3	-2.8	25.7
Apparel and footwear	222.3	250.2	220.0	692.6	23.7	17.5	-4.8	49.1
Miscellaneous consumer goods	653.5	765.9	740.5	2,159.8	12.9	-1.1	-2.2	19.8
Special transactions trade	131.4	164.2	140.5	436.1	13.9	8.2	-5.6	55.4
Unallocated BOP adjustments	-57.6	-74.2	-65.4	-197.2	-37.0	-33.3	-59.4	66.8
Total imports	8,080.3	9,889.7	9,807.6	27,777.6	14.7	2.0	5.0	29.7

Imports by Major Country Groupings, 1983 to 1986

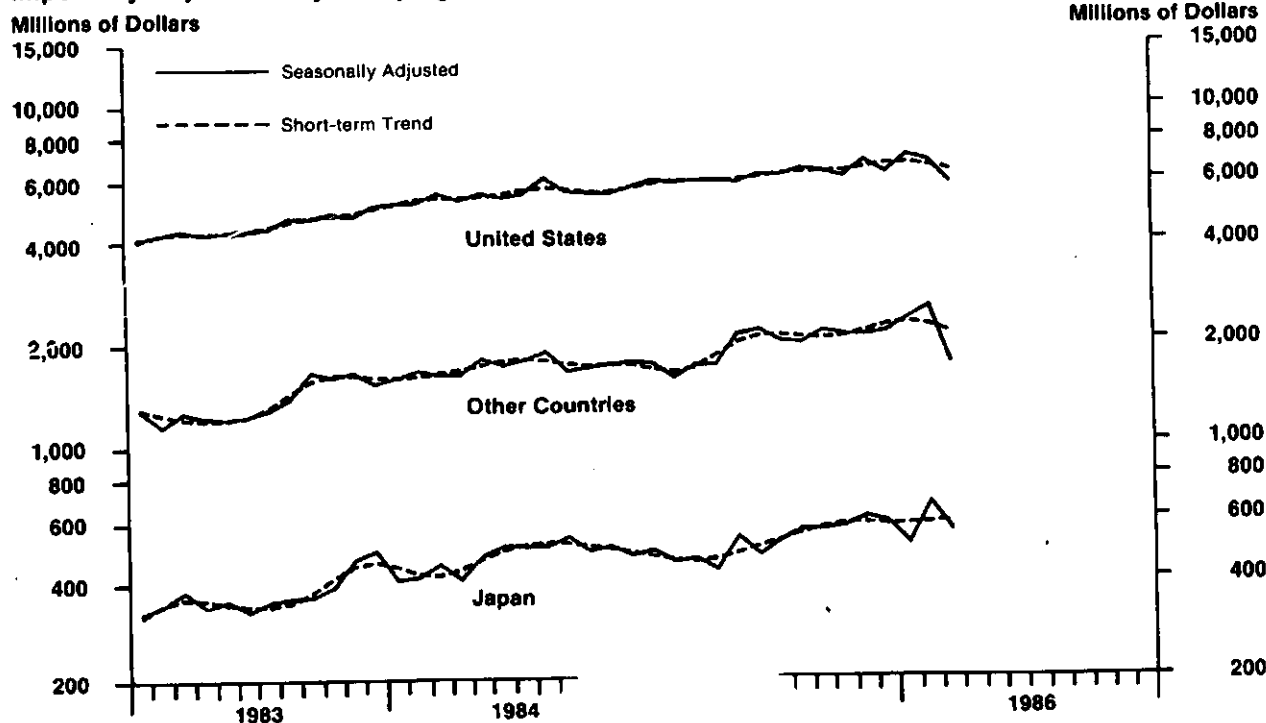


Table 5
Merchandise Trade of Canada
Constant Dollars and Laspeyres Price Indexes

March 1986

Seasonally adjusted, Balance of Payment basis

	Constant (1981) dollars ¹				Unit value (Laspeyres) price indexes ²			
			Period-to-period change ⁴		1981 = 100.0		Period-to-period change ⁴	
	Total exports ³	Imports	Total exports ³	Imports	Total exports ³	Imports	Total exports ³	Imports
	\$ millions		%				%	
1981	84,468	77,140			100.0	100.0	7.8	13.0
1982	83,620	64,221	-1.0	-16.7	101.2	104.5	1.2	4.5
1983	89,925	69,971	7.5	9.0	101.3	104.8	0.1	0.3
1984	105,771	82,387	17.6	17.7	105.7	111.0	4.3	6.0
1985	111,612	90,436	5.5	9.8	107.0	115.1	1.2	3.6
1984								
First quarter	25,142	20,177	3.3	3.8	104.4	108.3	2.5	1.9
Second quarter	25,930	20,361	3.1	0.9	106.8	110.9	2.3	2.4
Third quarter	27,204	21,280	4.9	4.5	107.0	113.1	0.2	2.0
Fourth quarter	27,450	20,567	0.9	-3.4	105.9	113.7	-1.1	0.6
1985								
First quarter	28,025	21,388	2.1	4.0	106.2	114.1	0.4	0.3
Second quarter	27,714	22,301	-1.1	4.3	107.8	115.4	1.5	1.1
Third quarter	27,189	23,362	-1.9	4.7	107.5	115.0	-0.3	-0.4
Fourth quarter	28,637	23,419	5.3	0.2	107.1	117.2	-0.4	1.9
1986								
First Quarter	28,651	23,716	0.0	1.3	105.6	118.5	-1.4	1.1
1985								
January	9,124	7,320	0.1	4.4	105.4	112.7	0.2	-0.9
February	9,127	6,972	0.0	-4.8	106.3	113.9	0.9	1.1
March	9,787	7,094	7.2	1.7	107.3	116.0	0.9	1.8
April	9,514	7,086	-2.8	0.1	107.5	115.2	0.2	-0.7
May	9,317	7,475	-2.1	5.4	107.9	115.6	0.3	0.4
June	8,880	7,741	-4.7	3.6	107.9	115.4	-0.2	
July	8,206	7,605	-7.6	-1.8	107.1	114.6	-0.7	-0.6
August	9,186	7,865	11.9	3.4	107.3	114.7	0.3	0.1
September	9,783	7,893	6.5	0.4	107.9	115.6	0.6	0.8
October	10,096	7,602	3.2	-3.7	107.1	116.3	-0.7	0.6
November	9,137	8,151	-9.5	7.2	107.0	116.9	-0.1	0.5
December	9,399	7,664	2.9	-6.0	107.1	118.3	0.1	1.2
1986								
January	10,256	8,368	9.1	9.2	106.4	119.3	-0.7	0.8
February	9,454	8,437	-7.8	0.8	105.5	118.6	-0.8	-0.6
March	8,941	6,911	-5.4	18.1	105.0	117.4	0.5	-1.0
Year to date								
1985	28,038	21,386	11.5	0.0				
1986	28,651	23,716	2.2	10.9				

¹ The Paasche current weighted price index used to calculate constant dollars can be derived by dividing current values in Table 1 by the constant dollars above.

² The Laspeyres price index uses fixed weights based on 1981 trade and therefore reflects changes in price only.

³ Total exports = domestic exports + re-exports.

⁴ Year-to-year, quarter-to-quarter, month-to-month.

Note: Due to rounding monthly data may not add up to quarterly data and quarterly data may not add up to annual data.