

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 25, 1987

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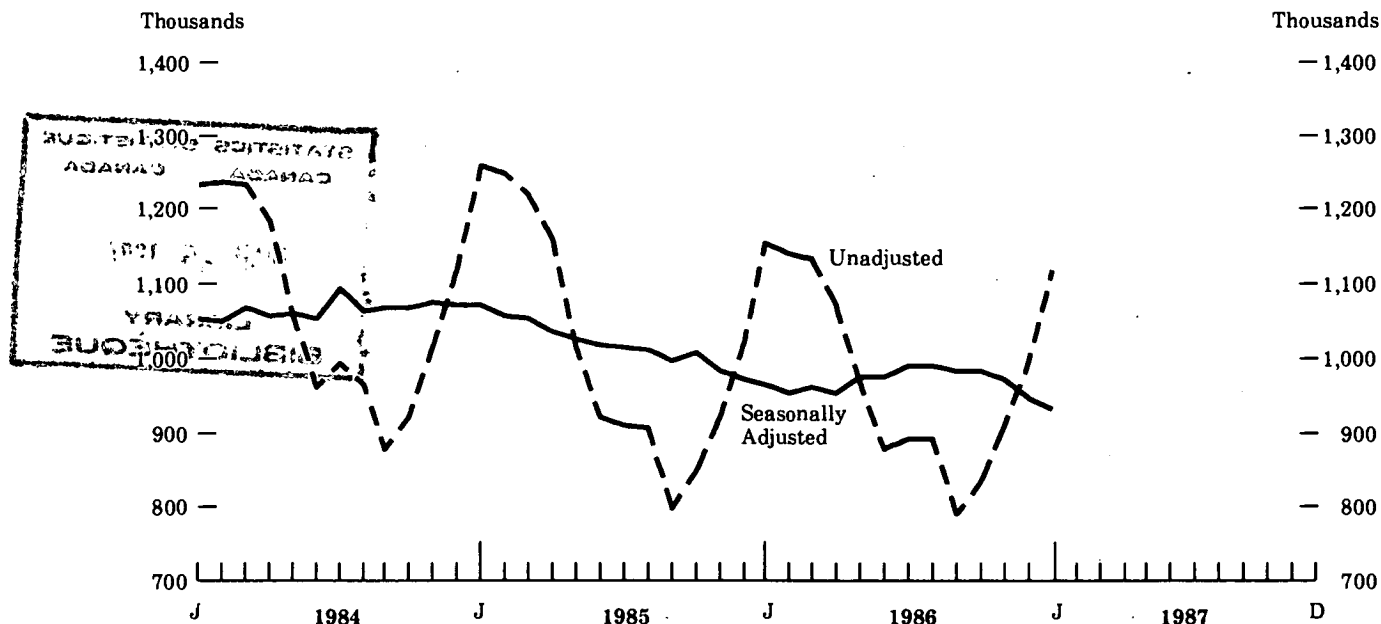
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Major Releases

Number of Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits, Canada, 1984-1987



Unemployment Insurance Statistics January 1987

Seasonally Adjusted Data

- For the week ending January 17, 1987, preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates show that the number of beneficiaries¹ receiving **regular** unemployment insurance benefits totalled 932,000 – down 1.6% from the preceding month. The number of beneficiaries has been declining since September 1986, following slight increases between May and August (see chart).
- By province, the seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits decreased between December 1986 and January 1987 in Ontario (-4.4%), Nova Scotia (-3.8%) and Newfoundland (-1.9%).

Increases occurred in Alberta (3.1%), the Northwest Territories (2.7%) and Saskatchewan (1.6%). The remaining provinces showed little or no change.

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonal Variation

- On an unadjusted basis, the actual number of beneficiaries (including all persons qualifying for **regular and special** unemployment insurance benefits) stood at 1,248,000 in January 1987, a decrease of 2.9% from January 1986. The number of male beneficiaries decreased to 747,000 or by 3.3% from a year earlier while the number of female beneficiaries decreased by 2.2% to 501,000.

(continued on page 3)

- Benefits paid during January 1987 totalled \$1,050 million² (not adjusted for seasonal variation), a drop of 10.0% from January 1986. (This decrease was larger than that observed a year earlier because the number of processing days differed in the two months.) There was a year-over-year decrease of 14.7% in the number of benefit weeks (to 5.5 million from 6.5 million) which was partially offset by a 5.5% increase in the average weekly benefit (to \$190.62 from \$180.69).
- The number of claims (applications) received² for unemployment insurance benefits in January 1987 totalled 318,000 (not adjusted for seasonal variation), a decrease of 16.1% compared to January 1986.

Each year, Employment and Immigration Canada adjusts the ceilings for insurable earnings and weekly benefits. For 1987, the weekly insurable earnings maximum has been raised to \$530 from \$495, and the weekly benefit level, calculated as 60% of insurable earnings, has increased to \$318 from \$297 in 1986.

¹ The number of beneficiaries represents a count of persons who qualified for unemployment insurance benefits during a specific week of the reference month.

² Benefits paid, number of benefit weeks, and number of claims received, relate to a complete calendar month. It should be noted that these data are affected by the number of working days available during the reference month to process claims and to pay benefits. In making short-term comparisons it is not uncommon to observe different trends between these data and the number of beneficiaries.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6) and 5700-5717.

Data for the months of November, December 1986 and January 1987 will be published in the January 1987 issue of *Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-001, \$12/\$120), available at the beginning of April. Unpublished beneficiaries data are also available on request, including statistics for small areas as defined by data users. For special tabulations and further information contact: H. Stiebert (613-991-4044) or J.-P. Maynard (613-991-4045), Labour Division.

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

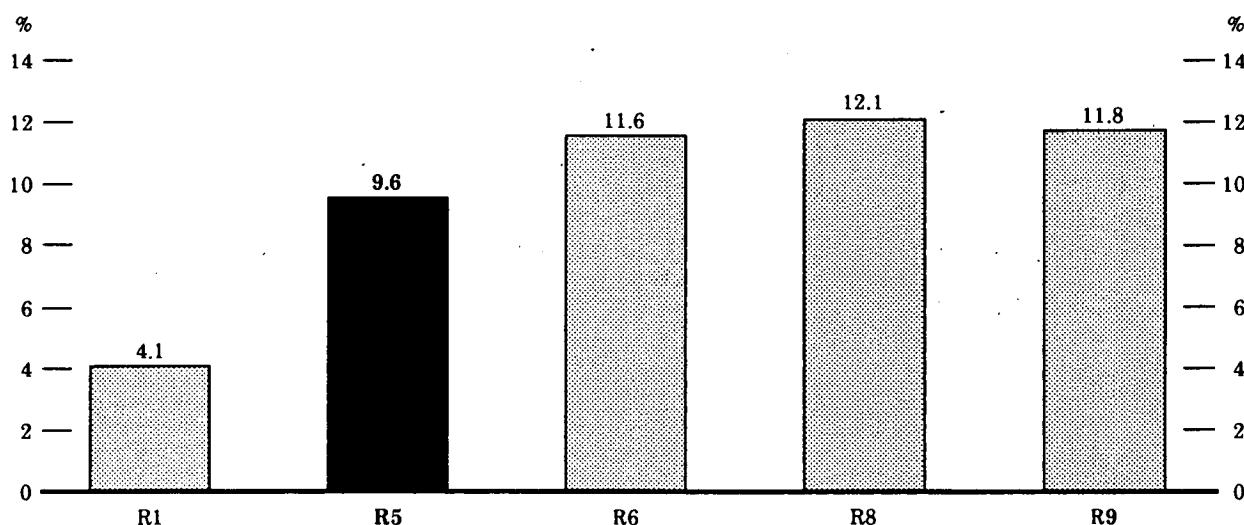
	January 1987	December 1986	November 1986	January 1986	% change from	
					December 1986	January 1986
Benefits						
Amount paid (\$000)	1,049,946	979,215	736,053	1,166,219	7.2	-10.0
Weeks of benefit (000)	5,508	5,191	4,006	6,454	6.1	-14.7
Average weekly benefit (\$)	190.62	188.65	183.75	180.69	1.3	5.5
Claims received (000)	318	358	330	379	-11.1	-16.1
Beneficiaries¹ (000)						
Total	1,248 ^p	1,129 ^p	1,044 ^r	1,285 ^r	10.6	-2.9
Regular benefits	1,119 ^p	992 ^p	909 ^r	1,154 ^r	12.8	-3.0
Regular benefits - Seasonally adjusted	932 ^p	947 ^p	969 ^r	966 ^r	-1.6	

¹ The beneficiaries include all claimants who receive benefits through the computer pay system. Excluded are year-round fishermen, a few seasonal fishermen and a small number of work sharing and job creation claimants who are paid through the manual pay system.

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

Selected Alternative Rates of Unemployment, Canada, Annual Averages, 1986



R1 - Unemployed 14 weeks or more as a per cent of labour force

R5 - Official rate

R6 - Rate of full-time labour force

R8 - Rate based on hours worked and hours "lost"

R9 - Rate of part-time labour force

Alternative Concepts and Measures of Unemployment

1986

Statistics Canada has long maintained that no single measure of unemployment, however defined, can be equally suited to all possible applications. To demonstrate the range of possible additional measures, Statistics Canada has, from time to time, published a selection of alternative unemployment rates.

"Alternative Measures and Concepts of Unemployment", the feature article in the February issue of *The Labour Force* explains the ideas behind these rates and looks at their behaviour over the past decade. Findings include:

- In 1986, the official unemployment rate was 9.6%, but the alternative rates devised by Statistics Canada ranged from 4.1% to 12.1%.

- One unemployment rate highlights "longer-term" unemployment by showing the proportion of the labour force unemployed for 14 or more weeks. In some provinces, sharp increases were recorded in this rate during and following the recession. In Alberta, for example, it rose from 0.5% to 5.0% in just three years (1981 to 1984).
- If "discouraged workers" and others on the margins of the labour force who have recently stopped job-hunting are included in the ranks of the unemployed, a 1986 unemployment rate of 10.6% is obtained, one percentage point over the official rate.
- The unemployment rate of the full-time labour force was 11.6%, two percentage points above the official rate. The difference is due largely to involuntary part-time workers, who want but cannot find a

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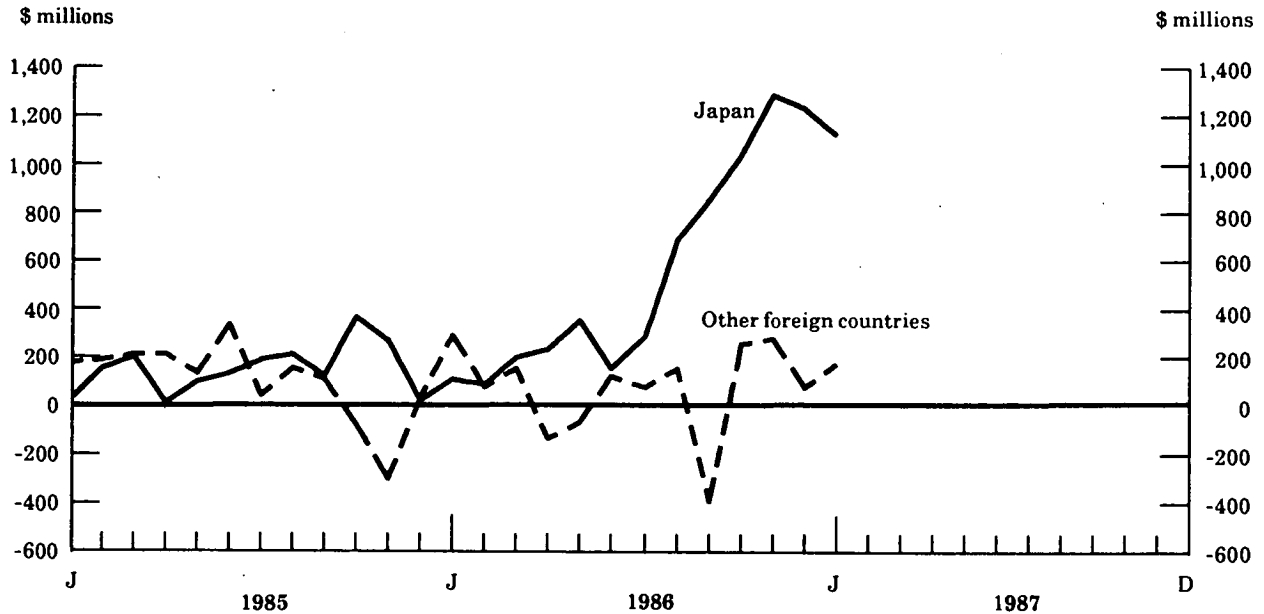
full-time job. The unemployment rate of the full-time labour force treats this group as "partly unemployed".

- The highest alternative rate (12.1%) in 1986 measures employment and unemployment in terms of hours worked and hours lost. It covers hours lost to the economy because of unemployment, involuntary part-time employment and short-time work schedules. This rate peaked at 14.5% in 1983, when the official rate was 11.9%.
- Among 15 to 24 year olds, the alternative rate based on hours exceeded the official rate by 5.1 percentage points in 1986

(20.3% compared to 15.2%). Among men aged 25 years and over, the rate based on hours (8.6%) exceeded the official rate (7.6%) by just one percentage point. Among women of that age, the difference between the hours-based rate and the official rate was considerably larger (12.1% compared to 8.6%).

Order the February 1987 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, \$20/\$200), now available. Contact: David Gower (613-991-4616), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

Net Trade in Outstanding Canadian Bonds With Japan and All Other Foreign Countries (Net Sales + / Net Purchases-)



Transactions in Outstanding Securities with Non-residents
January 1987

Type of security	Sales to Non-residents	Purchases from Non-residents	Net Sales (+)
(\$ millions)			
Canadian securities:			
Bonds	3,588	2,288	+1,300
Common and preferred stocks	2,256	1,693	+563
Total - January 1987	5,845	3,981	+1,863
Total - December 1986	4,265	3,000	+1,265
Foreign securities:			
Bonds	2,088	2,099	-11
Common and preferred stocks	2,121	1,965	+157
Total - January 1987	4,209	4,064	+146
Total - December 1986	4,333	5,168	-835

Data Availability Announcements

Chain Store Stocks

January 1987

- Retail chain store stocks totalled \$4,104 million at the end of January 1987, up 4.0% over the level reached in January 1986.
- The inventories to sales ratio stood at 1.17:1 in January 1987, down marginally from the average ratio of 1.22:1 observed in the three previous months.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 194.

Order the January 1987 issue of *Merchandising Inventories* (63-014, \$12/\$120), available the fourth week of April. Contact: Roger Laplante (613-991-3549), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics

January 1987

In January 1987, a total of 67 Canadian urban transit systems with gross annual total operating revenues of \$500,000 or more (subsidies included) carried 127,106,769 fare passengers. Operating revenues totalled \$84,247,219.

During the same period, 18 passenger bus carriers earning \$500,000 or more annually from intercity and rural bus operations carried 1,703,466 fare passengers. Earnings for these carriers totalled \$17,082,252.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 351 and 352.

Order the January 1987 issue of *Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics* (53-003, \$6.50/\$65), available the first week of April. Contact: Mamady Kaba (613-990-6154), Transportation Division.

Railway Carloadings

Seven Days Ending March 7, 1987

Freight tonnages loaded by railways in Canada for the week ending March 7, 1987 totalled 5.2 million tonnes, an increase of 10.4% from the 1986 figure. Loadings increased in the East by 21.1% and increased in the West by 1.9%.

Container-trailer or piggyback tonnages (included above) increased in the East by 4.5% but decreased in the West by 10.2%; there was an over-all national decrease of 0.5%.

The year-to-date rail freight loadings totalled 43.5 million tonnes, an increase of 3.0% from the previous year. During the same period, piggyback cars loaded increased 4.1%.

Order the Vol. 3, No. 9 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-005, \$75 a year), scheduled for release the week of March 23. Contact: Mamady Kaba (613-990-6154), Surface Transport Section, Transportation Division.

Imports by Commodity

January 1987

Commodity-country import trade statistics for January 1987 are now available on microfiche, computer printouts or magnetic tapes in advance of the monthly publication.

Available on CANSIM (for selected information): matrices 3652- 3678 and 3718.

Order the January 1987 issue of *Imports by Commodity* (65-007, \$50/\$500), available the third week of April. Contact: G. L. Blaney (613-990-9647), International Trade Division.

Heritage Institutions

1984

Attendance at heritage institutions continued to soar, surpassing 92 million visitors in 1984, an increase of 5% from the previous year. Total operating revenues exceeded \$550 million, an increase of 5% from 1983 (after adjusting for inflation) while total expenditures amounted to over \$508 million (up 6% after inflation).

While capital revenues amounted to over \$113.4 million, an increase of 9% from 1983 (after adjusting for inflation), capital expenditures decreased by 14%, totalling \$109.6 million. Heritage institutions also indicated that more than 19,000 volunteers contributed their time and/or services, a 10% increase from a year earlier.

Contact: Nicole Charron (613-991-1570) or Erika Dugas (613-991-1568), Culture Sub-division, Education Culture and Tourism Division.

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Publications Released

**Fruit and Vegetable Preservation
Service Bulletin, Vol. 15, No. 5, Pack
of Processed Cherries, 1986.**
Catalogue number 32-023
(Canada: \$6/\$100; Other Countries: \$7/\$110).

**Fruit and Vegetable Preservation
Service Bulletin, Vol. 15, No. 16, Pack
of Processed Lima Beans, 1986.**
Catalogue number 32-023
(Canada: \$6/\$100; Other Countries: \$7/\$110).

**Production and Sales of Phonograph
Records and Pre-recorded Tapes
in Canada, January 1987.**
Catalogue number 47-004
(Canada: \$4/\$40; Other Countries: \$5/\$50).

**Electric Power Statistics: Volume
II - Annual Statistics, 1984.**
Catalogue number 57-202
(Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21).

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

**International Travel - Advance
Information, January 1987.**
Catalogue number 66-001P
(Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60).

The Labour Force, February 1987.
Catalogue number 71-001
(Canada: \$20/\$200; Other Countries:
\$21.50/\$215).

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