

## CALENDAR OF ECONOMIC EVENTS OCTOBER—DECEMBER 1985

*Classification for calendar items:—*

**(A) INDUSTRY**—includes bids, mergers, commercial policy; **(B) LABOUR AND PRICES**—including strikes, claims, settlements, prices; **(C) INTERNATIONAL**—includes policy developments overseas (Central bank discount rate changes), IMF, monetary (exchange rates) and trade, EEC; **(D) UNITED KINGDOM GENERAL**—including domestic policy, interest rate changes and *Cmd* papers.

<p><b>October</b></p> <p><b>(C)</b> 1 Mexico to defer for six months repayment of \$950 million (£673 million) due to commercial banks and seek a new 15-month IMF loan.</p> <p><b>(A)</b> 1 The Alliance and Leicester building societies merger is completed.</p> <p><b>(D)</b> 2 The Government agrees to provide financial aid to help fund the port industry's voluntary redundancy arrangements for registered dockers.</p> <p><b>(B)</b> 2 GEC to cut over 900 jobs in the next six months at three telecommunications exchange factories.</p> <p><b>(D)</b> 5 The Department of Education and Science to provide £28.3 million in funding over 30 months to increase Britain's supply of graduate engineers and technologists.</p> <p><b>(A)(C)</b> 7 Ikarus of Hungary to set up an assembly plant in Britain, creating several hundred jobs, to produce buses and coaches for export.</p> <p><b>(A)</b> 8 Kenya Airways orders two A-310-300 twin-engined Airbuses from Airbus Industrie.</p> <p><b>(B)</b> 9 Goodyear Tyres to increase production of truck tyres in Wolverhampton, creating over 350 jobs.</p> <p><b>(C)</b> 11 Greece devalues the drachma by 15 per cent.</p> <p><b>(A)</b> 11 British Aerospace to sell to India 11 Sea Harrier jump jets and Sea Eagle missiles worth £160 million.</p> <p><b>(D)</b> 15 Report published by the House of Lords Select Committee on Overseas Trade on the causes and implications of the deficit in the UK balance of trade in manufactures.</p> <p><b>(A)</b> 17 British Telecom forms a UK-based joint venture with McDonnell Douglas Information Systems to launch electronic transaction services for business customers.</p> <p><b>(A)</b> 18 Tesco, the supermarket group, to build four superstores and a fresh food distribution depot in the West Country, creating up to 2,000 full- and part-time jobs by July 1986.</p> <p><b>(A)</b> 22 GEC Avionics wins a £34 million contract from the Ministry of Defence for night vision equipment for Royal Navy Lynx helicopters.</p> <p><b>(C)</b> 24 Trading in tin suspended on the London Metal Exchange as the International Tin Council runs out of funds to support prices.</p> <p><b>(A)(C)</b> 28 J.I. Case, the US farm and construction machinery maker, to manufacture in the UK, creating some 2,000 jobs over five years.</p> <p><b>(B)</b> 28 Union leaders representing 1 million engineering workers reject a pay offer of 3.95 per cent on the national minimum rate.</p> <p><b>(B)</b> 29 Branch officials from the breakaway Nottinghamshire area miners' union approve the NCB's 5.9 per cent pay offer to the area's 27,000 mineworkers.</p> <p><b>November</b></p> <p><b>(B)</b> 4 National Union of Seamen recommends acceptance of a pay offer worth 5.9 per cent.</p> <p><b>(A)</b> 5 British Rail places orders for 652 passenger trains for local services worth £182 million, shared between its subsidiary, British Rail Engineering, Metro-Cammell, and Leyland Vehicles.</p> <p><b>(A)</b> 6 Johnson Matthey Bankers put on sale for over £130 million by the Bank of England.</p> <p><b>(C)</b> 7 International Tin Council's 16 creditor banks, owed over £300 million, form a group to protect their interests (see 24 October).</p>	<p><b>(A)</b> 7 Royal Doulton to increase its workforce by about 300 over the next year to meet rising demand from abroad.</p> <p><b>(C)</b> 11 MMC Metals, a trading company owned by the world's largest tin producer, Malaysia Mining Corporation, suspends dealings on the London Metal Exchange in the wake of the crisis in the tin market (see 24 October and 7 November).</p> <p><b>(D)</b> 12 Autumn Statement on the economy published: public expenditure planning total to remain broadly unchanged in cost terms between 1985/6 and 1988/9; the target for receipts from sales of shares in public enterprises raised to £4¼ billion (from £2¼ billion) in each of the next three financial years; £20-a-week bonus for six months to encourage unemployed to take under £80-a-week jobs; £17½ million more to help jobless start their own business; extra cash for science at universities and 5.8 per cent more for schools; £220 million more for housing in 1986 and another £200 million in 1987; additional £900 million for health; £1 billion to improve benefits and pensions; £150 million over three years to finance urgent road repairs; extra Customs staff and £10 million to clamp down on drug smuggling.</p> <p><b>(B)</b> 13 Engineering unions accept 5.5 per cent pay deal.</p> <p><b>(C)</b> 14 European Parliament votes for an Ecu 34 billion (£21.1 billion) EEC budget for 1986—nearly 20 per cent more than in 1985.</p> <p><b>(D)</b> 15 British and Irish governments sign agreement establishing the Republic's right to regular, formal participation in Northern Ireland's affairs.</p> <p><b>(A)(C)</b> 18 British Airways and two US airlines, TWA and Pan Am, agree a £21 million deal offering discount transatlantic fares to passengers forced to pay higher fares in a two-year period following the collapse of Laker Airways.</p> <p><b>(A)</b> 22 Grand Metropolitan to sell Mecca Leisure and Warner Holidays to four senior Mecca Leisure managers for £95 million.</p> <p><b>(A)</b> 25 British Home Stores and Habitat/Mothercare agree a £1.52 billion merger.</p> <p><b>(A)</b> 26 Hambros, the UK merchant bank, makes an agreed bid for Birstow Eves, the residential estate agency.</p> <p><b>(D)</b> 27 The Government announces plans to involve private interests in the £77 million Docklands Light Railway and a proposed £85 million extension.</p> <p><b>(A)</b> 27 Jaguar to invest £37 million in a new engineering centre at Whitley, near Coventry.</p> <p><b>(D)</b> 28 The Government publishes its bill to sell off British Gas.</p> <p><b>(C)</b> 28 Brazil announces an economic package of personal tax reforms and a new social welfare programme, as well as measures aimed at reducing the large public sector deficit.</p> <p><b>(B)</b> 29 Hourly-paid workers at General Motors' UK vehicle subsidiaries accept pay offer worth 13 per cent over two years.</p> <p><b>December</b></p> <p><b>(C)</b> 2 Singapore stock market closed indefinitely after receivers are appointed for Pan-Electric, a marine salvage and property group.</p> <p><b>(A)</b> 2 Distillers, the scotch whisky group, rejects a £1.8 billion bid from Argyll, the supermarket group.</p>
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- (A) 2 Imperial Group, the brewing, tobacco and food company, makes a £1.22 billion agreed bid for United Biscuits.
- (A) 3 GEC makes a £1.16 billion bid for Plessey.
- (D) 3 National Westminster, Barclays and Lloyds banks to introduce free banking for customers whose current accounts remain in credit.
- (C) 4 Singapore's stock market reopens after agreement on a S\$180 million (£56.9 million) standby credit supplied by the country's four large local banks and rule changes allowing banks and foreign interests to participate in the market more directly (see 2 December).
- (A) 4 Sale of shares in Cable & Wireless fully underwritten.
- (A) 4 Plessey rejects £1.16 billion bid from GEC with a counter-proposal to buy out GEC's System X digital telephone interests (see 3 December).
- (D) 5 The Government confirms that the UK will leave Unesco at the end of December.
- (C) 5 The UK agrees to ratify a new four-year European Community-US steel trade agreement.
- (A) 6 Hanson Trust, the industrial holding company, makes a £1.9 billion takeover bid for Imperial Group, following Imperial's agreed bid for United Biscuits (see 2 December).
- (A) 10 Share dealings in Westland, the helicopter manufacturers, suspended on the London stock market at the company's request.
- (C) 12 US President, Mr Ronald Reagan, signs the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget legislation which aims for elimination of the deficit by 1991 through phased reductions.
- (A) 12 Takeover Panel rules that Scottish & Newcastle Breweries' £125 million bid for Matthew Brown will not be allowed.
- (A) 13 Westland rejects a rescue bid from four European aerospace companies in favour of a deal with US Sikorsky and Fiat of Italy (see 10 December).
- (A) 14 British Aerospace wins a \$120 million (£83 million) order to supply Rapier missile systems to the Indonesian army.
- (D) 16 The Government publishes White Paper (*Cmnd 9691*), 'The Reform of Social Security, Programme for Action', which reprieves State earnings related pension scheme (Serps) but curtails its benefits to cut costs.
- (D) 17 The Government publishes White Paper (*Cmnd 9695*), 'Banking Supervision'.
- (A)(C) 17 Petrofina of Belgium launches an agreed £145 million bid for Charterhouse Petroleum, the UK oil exploration company.
- (D) 19 The Government publishes Financial Services Bill containing measures to curb fraud in investment businesses through a new main regulatory authority.
- (B) 19 AUEW votes to accept Government money to fund postal ballots.
- (A) 20 Consortium of five European aerospace manufacturers reveals a new £73 million rescue bid for Westland (see also 10 and 13 December).
- (A) 23 About 1,600 jobs to be cut at Mirror Group Newspapers, all but 100 of them through voluntary redundancy or early retirement.
- (A) 26 Westland wins a £65 million order from India for 21 helicopters.