February 17, 1984

New Motor Vehicle Sales

Helped by stimuli such as the discounted financing programs available at the beginning of the year, total sales of all new motor vehicles in 1983 were 17.4% higher than in 1982 (920,902 units) at 1,081,088 units. This total included 625,088 North American passenger cars (+27.7% from 1982) valued at $6,700.5 million (+38.0%) and 192,609 North American commercial vehicles (+15.3%) sold for $2,728.8 million (+12.6%). Sales of overseas manufactured passenger cars declined by 2.6% from 1982 to 218,230 units with a total retail value of $2,340.9 million (+7.3%) while sales of overseas-built commercial vehicles increased by 11.7% to 45,161 units valued at $426.1 million (+17.3%). In 1983, 3,205 buses or coaches were sold (-8.9%) for $333.4 million (-31.6%)

With the voluntary limitation agreement concerning the importation of Japanese models into Canada renewed in 1983, North American manufacturers benefited by capturing a larger share of the Canadian new passenger car market (74.1%, up from 68.6% in 1982). Both Japanese and European manufacturers registered decreased shares with 20.9% and 5.0% respectively in 1983, compared to 25.0% and 6.4% in 1982.

Following strong gains of 44.1% in October and 39.6% in November, retail sales (in units) of all new motor vehicles without seasonal adjustment rose at a more modest pace in December 1983, increasing by 11.0% to total 74,199 units. Sales of North American manufactured passenger cars rose 1.7% from December 1982 to 39,624 units and commercial vehicles were up 39.6% to 15,358 units. Sales of passenger cars built overseas increased by 25.8% to 16,415 units while, in contrast, sales of overseas commercial vehicles dropped sharply by 26.7% to 2,802 units.

The share of the Canadian passenger car market held by North American manufacturers in December 1983 (based on unit sales) was 70.7%, down from 74.9% in December 1982. Japanese manufacturers recorded a market share of 23.2% (compared to 18.5% in 1982) while European manufacturers held 6.1% of the market (compared to 6.6% in 1982).

Total dollar value of all new motor vehicles sold in December 1983 increased

(continued on next page)
Renal Failure, 1982
In Canada, close to 6,000 patients with irreversible kidney disease depend on dialysis or a kidney transplant for their survival.

The Canadian Renal Failure Register - which is operated jointly by the Kidney Foundation of Canada, Statistics Canada, and Health and Welfare Canada - has released its second annual report which contains detailed information about these patients, their treatment and the facilities providing treatment.

Some highlights from the 1982 annual report include:
- A total of 5,971 patients received treatment for end-stage renal disease in 1982. This represents an increase of 4.5% over 1981 which is almost entirely due to an increase of 206 patients on peritoneal dialysis.
- Canada's rate of acceptance of patients for treatment compares well with European countries for which comparable statistics are available. All patients who require treatment for end-stage renal failure in Canada are receiving it.
- Canada compares favourably with the European countries in the number of patients on all types of treatment. In particular, Canada has a very large population with functioning transplants and is by far the leading country in the use of peritoneal dialysis.
- The transplant rate varies across the country with Ontario, Nova Scotia and Alberta having a rate comparable to the best European rates whereas Saskatchewan and British Columbia have a considerably lower rate.
- Transplantation was primarily a procedure used in younger patients; only one registered patient over 65 years of age had a renal transplant.

Copies of the 1982 Report of the Canadian Renal Failure Register can be obtained for $5 from the Kidney Foundation of Canada (which publishes the report), Ottawa Valley Chapter, 203-739-B Ridgewood Avenue, Ottawa K1V 6M8.

Non-residential Building
The Non-residential Building Construction Input Price Index for Canada (1971=100) remained virtually unchanged in December 1983, standing at 302.3 compared to November's revised level of 302.2.

The building materials component index rose 0.2%, mainly as a result of price increases for ready-mix concrete and acoustic tiles that more than offset decreases for a number of other materials.

The labour component decreased fractionally to 327.8 in December from November's revised level of 328.0. It is noted, however, that the recent increase in the building materials index has more than offset decreases in labour costs and 0.5% in materials.

For further information, order Construction Price Statistics (62-007, $3.30/$33), or contact Prices Division (613-996-3744), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

Steel Ingots
Premium estimates show steel ingot production in Canada climbed 66.5% to 1,228,635 tonnes in January 1984 from 737,723 tonnes a year earlier.

Labour Income
Labour income for November 1983 was estimated at $18,829.3 million, an increase of $3,320.3 million or 7.5% from November 1982.

Schooling in Canada
During a period of about 20 years, this country's educational level has risen from a proportion of slightly more than one in two Canadians with some secondary schooling or higher, to four out of five in 1981.

Census data show that while the proportion of Canadians with less than grade 9 education was halved between 1961 and 1981, the number of qualified persons with postsecondary or trades credentials grew over five times. By 1981, half the Canadian population 15 years of age and over had completed at least 11.8 years of schooling.

Statistics Canada is releasing Schooling in Canada, a report that brings together under one cover highlights of information about the education and school attendance of the population. Fourteen attractive charts — some comparing and contrasting 1981 Census data with data from other censuses — are included and additional tables summarize the main themes.

Schooling in Canada is the second of 12 publications in the 1981 Census Content Series — short, informative and easy to read reports covering major issues of interest to a broad cross-section of Canadians.

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Retail Trade

Retail trade in Canada without seasonal adjustment totalled $11,660.5 million in current dollars in December 1983, up 9.6% over December 1982. The increase was in large measure attributable to a notable 25.7% sales gain posted by motor vehicle dealers, retail sales showed a more conservative 7.8% gain when this group is excluded. With the exception of general merchandise stores (-2.0%) and garages (-1.1%), sales increases were recorded by all the remaining kinds of businesses surveyed, with the largest gains reported by furniture, TV, radio and appliance stores (+27.3%) and household appliance stores (+29.0%).

In December, all provinces and territories posted increased sales from a year earlier, with gains ranging from 15.8% in Nova Scotia to 3.9% in Saskatchewan. In the four metropolitan areas surveyed, sales were higher in Toronto (+13.4%), Winnipeg (+9.4%), Vancouver (+7.3%) and Montreal (+6.9%).

Revised total retail sales for November 1983 were $9,340.2 million, an increase of 9.3% from November 1982.

The preliminary 1983 total retail trade estimate rose by 7.7% over 1982 sales of $37,638.5 million and reached $105,188.9 million in current dollars. Compared to the 3.5% increase in retail trade in 1982, the 7.7% gain in 1983 represents an even more significant turnaround in consumer confidence when the increase in the Consumer Price Index is taken into account (5.8% in 1982 and 10.8% in 1982).

Independent stores remained the largest segment of the retail trade industry in 1983, posting sales of $60,046.7 million (up 9.3% over 1982) or 57.1% of total retail trade (as compared to 55.2% in 1982), while chain stores had sales of $45,142.2 million (up 5.5%) or 42.9% of total retail trade (as compared to 43.8% in 1982).

Most of the gain recorded during 1983 resulted from a pent-up demand for durable goods — primarily big-ticket items. Among the 28 kinds of businesses surveyed, the largest increases in sales were registered by household appliance stores (+28.9%), furniture, TV, radio and appliance stores (+25.1%), household furniture stores (+22.6%) and motor vehicle dealers (+18.6%), while garages was the only kind of business to record decreased sales (-0.3%).

In 1983, all provinces except the Yukon and Northwest Territories (-1.1%) registered sales increases from 1982 levels, ranging from 2.2% in Alberta to 13.4% in Nova Scotia. Sales rose in the four metropolitan areas covered by the survey: Vancouver, +1.5%, Montreal, +4.4%, Winnipeg, +9.0% and Toronto, +10.2%.

For further information, order the December 1983 issue of Retail Trade (63-005, $8.50/$38.50), or contact Jean-Pierre Simard (613-995-9304), Retail Trade Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9.

Trusteed Pension Funds

The book value of assets held in trusteed pension funds reached an estimated $79.6 billion at the end of the third quarter of 1983, an increase of $2.4 billion over the assets of the previous quarter and $11.3 billion more than the amount held one year earlier.

Bonds, accounting for 47.2% of total assets at the end of the third quarter, continued to be the most prominent investment vehicle. Equity holdings at 23.9% were slightly higher in relative terms than in the previous quarter, whereas mortgages continued their slow decline to 6.4% of total assets.

Total income for the third quarter of 1983 amounted to $3.3 billion, of which 50% represented investment income, 6% consisted of net gains on sales of securities and almost all of the balance was made up of contributions by employees and employers. Out of this revenue, expenditures of $942 million were met, leaving a net quarterly cash flow of nearly $2.3 billion.

For further information, order the third quarter 1983 issue of Quarterly Estimates of Trusteed Pension Funds (74-001, $2.75/$27.50), or contact Hubert Franken (613-995-7165), Pensions Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Railway Operating Statistics

The seven major railways in Canada reported a combined net income from operations of $42.1 million in October 1983. Operating revenues of $578.2 million were up 28.3% from the 1982 figure.

Revenue freight tonne-kilometres were up by 27.8% from a year earlier in October 1983, freight train-kilometres increased 18.8% and freight car-kilometres 19.4%. Average revenue per tonne-kilometre of freight was 2.093 cents. Revenue passenger-kilometres decreased by 0.5% to 166.8 million.

For further information, order the October 1983 issue of Railway Operating Statistics (52-003, $2.75/$27.50), or contact the Rail Unit (613-995-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Help-wanted Index

The seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index for Canada (1981 = 100) decreased to 52 in January 1984 from 56 in December 1983. However, the short-term trend, shows an upward movement. Compared with the year-earlier level of 38, the index now stands considerably higher.

On a regional basis, the seasonally adjusted help-wanted indexes advanced from December to January in Quebec and British Columbia but dropped in Ontario and the Atlantic and Prairie provinces.

Inquiries about the index should be directed to Horst Steibert (613-995-7165 ext. 238), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Living Alone

Living alone has changed from a rare arrangement to the lifestyle of 1.6 million Canadians or one in every 11 adults. Results of the 1981 Census seem to indicate a growing inclination for the young and old to live alone and since both groups are expected to increase in size, one-person households will likely multiply as well.

Statistics Canada recently released Living Alone (catalogue no. 99-934: Canada: $5.50; other countries: $6.60), a report that takes an in-depth look at people who live alone. The publication describes who they are, and why they are increasing. It compares their income with the income of those who do not live alone. Finally, it tells where they live and in what type of housing.

Living Alone is the first of 12 publications in the 1981 Census Content Series. Each of these short, informative and easy to read reports will cover a major issue of interest to a broad cross-section of Canadians.

Copies of Living Alone can be obtained from Publication Sales and Services, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6 or any of the Statistics Canada's regional reference centres.
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Publications can also be ordered through Statistics Canada's offices in St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Sturgeon Falls, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver, or from bookstore agents or other booksellers.