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Weekly Bulletin

April 3, 1981

## Canadian Trade/Preliminary Statement

From preliminary results, it is estimated that on a seasonally adjusted balance-of-payments basis, Canada's exports fell 4.1% or \$286 million to \$6,675 million in February 1981 following a 5.7% increase in January. Imports decreased 0.5% or \$29 million to \$6,139 million after a 4.3% rise in January. The merchandise trade surplus was therefore reduced by \$257 million to \$536 million in February from \$793 million in January.

Growth in the short term trend-cycle for exports started to decelerate in October 1980, with increases of 3.2%, 2.7%, 1.6% and 0.9% in the last four months of 1980. Growth in the import trend-cycle began to slow down in November 1980, one month later than exports, with increases of 2.6%, 2.1% and 1.5% in the last three months of 1980. As a result, the trend-cycle for the merchandise trade balance peaked in October at a surplus of \$897 million and dropped \$11 million in November and \$31 million to \$855 million in December.

## Commodity Analysis

On a customs basis, for seasonally adjusted domestic exports the largest decreases in value in February were for cereals (down \$120 million to \$490 million following a \$145 million increase in January), petroleum and coal products (down \$80 million to \$185 million after a \$75 million increase in January), passenger cars (down \$65 million to \$280 million following a \$100 million decrease in January) and aircraft and other transportation equipment (down \$65 million to \$205 million). The largest increases in value were for non-ferrous metals (up \$85 million to \$470 million following a \$155 million decrease in January), iron ores and concentrates (up \$70 million to \$200 million after a \$90 million increase in January) and crude petroleum (up \$60 million to \$270 million).

The largest decreases in value for February 1981 imports were for crude petroleum (down \$120 million to \$570 million following a \$175 million increase in January) and aircraft and other transportation equipment (down \$80 million to \$270 million after a \$140 million increase in January). Precious metals increased \$80 million to \$120 million and metal ores were up \$60 million to \$250 million.

## Trading Partner Analysis

Exports to the United States, seasonally adjusted and on a customs basis, decreased (continued on next page)

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Dec.	324.9 <sup>p</sup>	329.37 <sup>p</sup>	11.2
Labour Income (\$ million)	Dec.	13,922.0 <sup>p</sup>	14,014.4 <sup>p</sup>	12.1
Persons with Jobs (million)	Feb.	10.5 <sup>3</sup>	10.46	3.4
Unemployed	Feb.	928,000	945,000	-2.2

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Jan.	2,457.6	2,499.9	9.5
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Jan.*	29,461.5 <sup>p</sup>	28,893.9 <sup>r</sup>	8.9
Wholesale (\$ million)	Jan.	13,530.3	13,091.8	12.7

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Jan.*	13,961.1 <sup>p</sup>	14,194.5 <sup>r</sup>	1.3
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Jan.*	18,676.7 <sup>p</sup>	18,387.7 <sup>r</sup>	1.5

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Feb.	226.4	224.1	12.2
Non-food (CPI) Component	Feb.	208.5	206.8	11.6
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Feb.*	128.1	126.8	11.7
22-city Composite Wage, Building (1971=100)	Dec.	253.1 <sup>p</sup>	253.1	9.5
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Jan.	261.2 <sup>p</sup>	257.8 <sup>r</sup>	9.3

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec.	1,554.4 <sup>p</sup>	15,552.1 <sup>p</sup>	10.0
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb.*	6,603	14,797	-12.6

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand metric tonnes)	Dec.*	3,469.6	36,666.0	10.4
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Dec.	36.4	366.7	4.1
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Dec.	10,054.9	97,702.0	-7.4
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Jan.	9.3 <sup>p</sup>	9.3 <sup>p</sup>	-5.7

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Jan.	6,531 <sup>p</sup>	6,531 <sup>p</sup>	10.5
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Jan.	5,869 <sup>p</sup>	5,869 <sup>p</sup>	6.9

### PRODUCTION

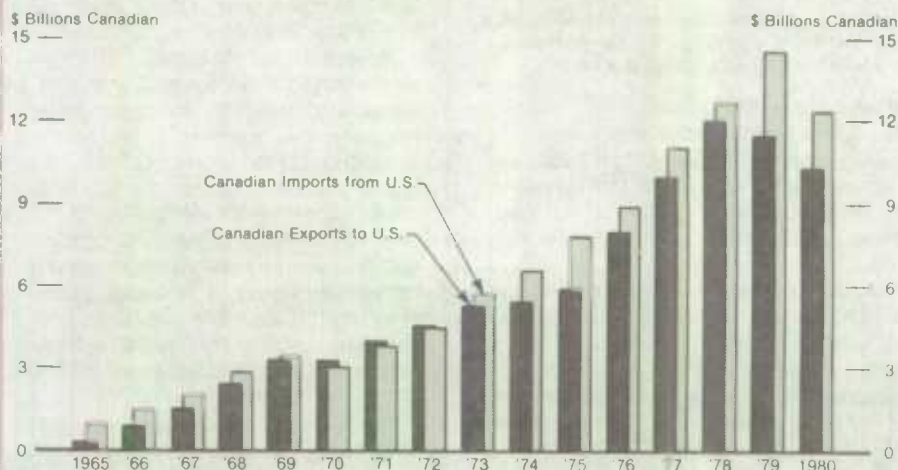
Steel (Ingots — thousand metric tonnes)	Feb.	1,321.8	2,702.5	0.3
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### SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	640.2	640.2	14.2
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Jan.*	13,672.1 <sup>p</sup>	13,672.1 <sup>p</sup>	7.9
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.*	856.5	1,628.6	-1.6
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	6,682.3 <sup>p</sup>	6,682.3 <sup>p</sup>	18.4
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	6,162.0	6,162.0	9.4

Statistics are not seasonally adjusted. p - preliminary. r - revised. \* - new this week.

## Canada—United States Trade in Automotive Products



Source: Statistics Canada



sed by 0.8% or \$40 million to \$4.47 billion in February following an increase of 6.4% in January. Exports to the United Kingdom increased 9% to \$280 million after decreasing 10% in January, while exports to "Other EEC" countries were off by 26% or \$150 million to \$420 million, following an 18% increase in January. Exports to Japan increased for the second consecutive month with an increase of 19% in January and an 18% or \$65 million rise to \$440 million in February. Exports to "Other OECD" countries decreased by 38% or \$100 million to \$165 million, following a 36% increase in January. Exports to "Other America" decreased 18% or \$75 million to \$335 million.

Imports from the U.S. increased by 3.9% or \$170 million to \$4.52 billion, following a 2% increase in January. Imports from the U.K. decreased by 9% to \$160 million after a 13% increase in January and imports from "Other EEC" countries rose by 10% to \$310 million following a 2.2% decline in the preceding month. Imports from Japan increased by 5% to \$320 million, and imports from "Other OECD" countries were off by 7% to \$150 million after decreasing 18.6% in January. Imports from "Other America" increased by 6% to \$390 million, following a 7.2% decrease in January.

*For further information on area and commodity trade, order the February 1981 issue of Summary of External Trade (65-001, \$3/\$30).*

#### **Aggregate Productivity Measures**

Preliminary estimates of output per man-hour for all commercial industries show a decline of 0.6% in 1980, following no change in 1979. Unit labour cost increased 10.0% in 1980, the largest increase since 1975.

Output per man-hour in manufacturing declined 1.4% in 1980, the first such decline since 1975. Unit labour cost increased 10.9%, again the largest increase since 1975.

In both all commercial industries and manufacturing, compensation per man-hour increased 9.4% in 1980, but the declines in productivity in both sectors resulted in increases in unit labour cost of 10.0% for all commercial industries and 10.9% for manufacturing.

*For further information, contact Miss M. Larose (613-995-8261), Input-Output Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

#### **Coal and Coke Statistics**

Production of coal in Canada totalled 3 469 624 tonnes in December 1980, an increase of 23.3% from 2 815 039 tonnes a year earlier. Landed imports declined 33.2% to 1 320 749 tonnes from 1 976 402 tonnes.

Production of coal in Canada during the year 1980 amounted to 36 665 973 tonnes, up 10.4% from the 1979 total of 33 197 579 tonnes.

*For further information, order the December 1980 issue of Coal and Coke Statistics (45-002, \$2.50/\$25), or contact Dave Madsen (613-996-3139), Energy Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

#### **Statistics Canada Annual Report**

Now available is the report of the Chief Statistician of Canada, covering operations and services during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1980.

Included in the report is an overview, a section on human resources, and sections on the major areas of activity in the bureau: economic statistics, industry statistics, socio-economic statistics, the census, research and development, user/respondent services and liaison, and management and administration.

A copy of the report (catalogue 11-201) may be obtained free of charge from Publications Distribution, User Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V7.

#### **Statistics Canada Catalogue, 1981**

The 1981 *Statistics Canada Catalogue* is now available. This edition includes current catalogue-numbered publications available from Statistics Canada as of January 1, 1981. The catalogue also lists all additions, deletions and changes that have occurred since January 1, 1980 and includes a title/subject index.

Single copies of the catalogue or sets (one English and one French copy) are available at no charge. There is, however, a charge of \$5 for each additional copy or set. Copies of the catalogue are available from User Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6, or from any of the Statistics Canada regional reference centres.

Users who ordered copies of the 1980 catalogue should note that they are automatically being sent order cards for the new catalogue.

#### **SOC 1980 Edition Available**

The 1980 edition of the *Standard Occupational Classification* (SOC) is now available. The SOC provides a systematic classification structure which enables users to easily identify and categorize the entire range of occupational activities in Canada. The basic principle of the classification is the "kind of work performed".

Collectors of occupational data and analytical users of Census of Canada information will particularly welcome this manual. Universities, independent research organizations, labour unions, governments and various other users will find the SOC an invaluable tool in planning education and training programs, occupational research and analysis, planning and placement services and studying mobility and related activities dealing with occupational statistics.

*For further information, order the 1980 edition of the Standard Occupational Classification (12-565E, Canada: \$25; other countries: \$30).*

#### **Unemployment Insurance Statistics**

A total of \$487 million was paid in unemployment insurance benefits during the month of January 1981, up 22% from the previous month (this was lower than the December to January increase for prior years). Compared with January 1980, payments rose by 4%. The average weekly benefit stood at \$129.02, about 9% more than a year earlier.

Persons qualifying for unemployment insurance benefits for the week ended January 17 numbered 855,000, an increase of 16% from December 1980 and 4% higher than in January 1980. Thirty-two percent of the beneficiaries were under 25 years of age, 46% were between 25 and 44 years and 22% were 45 years and older.

Applicants for benefits filed 306,000 claims in January, 1% more than in December 1980 but 10% less than in January 1980. Claims were fewer than a year earlier in all areas except for Quebec, Alberta and the Territories, where small increases were registered.

*For further information, order the first quarter 1981 issue of Preliminary Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act (73-001, \$6/\$24), or contact George Fincham (613-995-8445), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.*

#### **Real Domestic Product (RDP)**

Preliminary estimates for Real Domestic Product in January 1981 indicate the index (1971=100) rose 0.2% to a level of 141.3 from 141.1 in December 1980. The growth during January originated almost entirely among service-producing industries (up 0.7%) while goods-producing industries declined 0.6%. The index of industrial production recorded the first monthly decline (-0.9%) since July 1980.

The major growth areas in the month included trade, finance, insurance and real estate services, forestry and mining. In trade, growth was widespread among both wholesaling and retailing establishments, especially for sales of food, clothing, transportation equipment, health care items, and household furnishings. Financial institutions — notably banks and security dealers — advanced substantially in January, mostly due to stronger demand for business loans and increased stock market activity.

Following two previous months of no growth, forestry operations picked up substantially in January, advancing to the highest output level since March 1980. Increased production of crude petroleum, natural gas, potash, and iron ore accounted for the gain in mining.

The most significant area of weakness during the month was in the production of motor vehicles (off about 25% from the previous high level recorded in December 1980); production of passenger cars destined for other countries showed a marked decline, as did production of vehicles for the domestic market.

*For further information, order the January 1981 issue of Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry (including the Index of Industrial Production) (61-005, \$3/\$30).*



## Inventories/Shipments/Orders

New orders received by Canadian manufacturers in January 1981 were estimated at \$14,428.6 million, seasonally adjusted, 3.5% lower than the revised December value of \$14,954.6 million. New orders for durable goods dropped 4.5% to \$6,101.2 million from \$6,386.3 million while non-durable goods new orders decreased 2.8% to \$8,327.4 million from \$8,568.3 million.

The preliminary estimate of the value of manufacturers' shipments in January 1981, seasonally adjusted, was \$14,674.6 million, down 2.2% from the revised December level of \$15,007.7 million. Durable goods shipments were down 3.9% to \$6,259.1 million from \$6,510.2 million and non-durable goods shipments decreased 1.0% to \$8,415.5 million from \$8,497.5 million.

The total backlog of unfilled orders for all manufacturing, seasonally adjusted, was estimated at \$18,764.0 million in January, 1.3% lower than the revised December value of \$19,010.0 million.

The seasonally adjusted value of total inventory owned by manufacturers increased 0.8% to \$29,235.2 million in January from \$29,007.9 million (revised) in December. Total inventory held increased 0.9% to \$30,706.6 million from a revised \$30,433.6 million, with raw materials up 0.1%, goods in process up 1.7% and finished products up 1.2%.

The seasonally adjusted ratio of total inventory owned to shipments at the end of January was 1.99:1 compared with 1.93:1 (revised) in December. The finished products to shipments ratio increased to 0.68:1 from 0.66:1.

Not adjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in January 1981 were estimated at \$13,672.1 million, up 7.9% from \$12,666.7 million a year earlier.

For further information, order the January 1981 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, \$3/\$30).

## Canadian Travel Survey

Results from the Canadian Travel Survey for the third quarter of 1980 (July-September) show a total of 39.9 million person-trips by Canadians travelling in Canada, a marginal increase from the year-earlier period. This brought the total for the first three quarters of 1980 to 87.6 million person-trips, a decline of 3.3% from the January-September 1979 period.

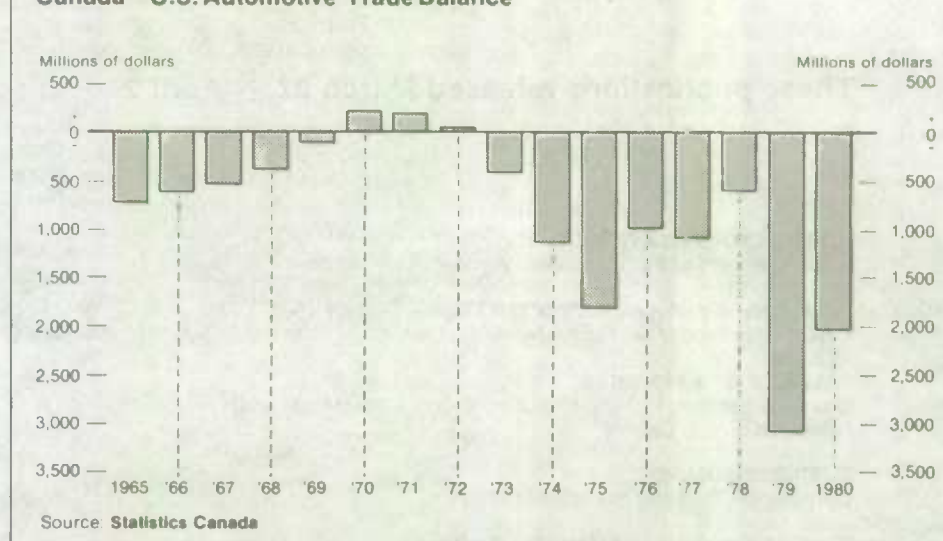
For further information from the survey, which is conducted by Statistics Canada on behalf of the Canadian Government Office of Tourism and Transport Canada, contact the Travel, Tourism and Recreation Section (613-995-9689), Education, Science and Culture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Washing Machines/Clothes Dryers

Production of washing machines (electric automatic) during the month of February 1981 was 36,099 units. Production of clothes dryers (electric automatic) for the same month amounted to 29,784 units.

For further information, order the February 1981 issue of *Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers* (43-002, \$1.50/\$15).

## Canada—U.S. Automotive Trade Balance



## Canada's Foreign Trade in Automotive Products, 1980

Canada's deficit on merchandise trade in automotive products with the United States was down by \$1.0 billion to \$2.0 billion in 1980 from \$3.1 billion in 1979 following a \$2.5 billion increase in 1979. This brings the cumulative deficit over the eight years since the last surplus of \$45 million recorded in 1972 to \$11.2 billion or an average of \$1.4 billion per year. Surpluses averaging \$150 million a year were recorded in the three-year period 1970 to 1972 and deficits averaging \$460 million a year were registered in the first five years of the automotive agreement from 1965 to 1969.

The \$1 billion reduction in the 1980 deficit was the result of a \$465 million increase in the surplus on cars to \$1.1 billion and a \$590 million increase in the surplus on trucks and other motor vehicles to \$1.0 billion. The deficit on parts was unchanged from the \$4.2 billion recorded in 1979.

In general, the reduction of the deficit resulted from greater weakness in imports than exports. Over-all, exports were down nearly 10% or \$1.1 billion to \$10.3 billion in 1980 and imports were down 15% or \$2.2 billion to \$12.3 billion. Exports of passenger cars increased 2.5% or \$105 million to \$4.5 billion while imports dropped 9.6% or \$360 million to \$3.4 billion. Exports of trucks and other motor vehicles decreased 6.2% or \$145 million to \$2.2 billion while imports decreased 37.7% or \$735 million to \$1.2 billion. Exports of parts were down 24% or \$1.1 billion to \$3.4 billion and imports of parts decreased 12.3% or \$1.1 billion to \$7.6 billion.

## Trade with Overseas Countries

The deficit on trade with overseas countries increased by \$290 million to \$550 million in 1980 as exports increased 13% to \$1.2 billion and imports increased 33% to \$1.7 billion.

The main cause of the increased deficit was the 63% or \$395 million increase in imports of foreign cars to \$1.0 billion. Exports increased 13% or \$45 million to

\$405 million, leading to a net increase in the deficit on cars of \$350 million to \$620 million in 1980. The 1980 surplus of \$97 million on trucks and other motor vehicles was down by \$7 million as exports increased 13.5% to \$225 million while imports increased 35.4% to \$130 million. Parts exports were down 5.8% to \$420 million while imports were down 2.7% to \$355 million, yielding a \$16 million reduction in the surplus on parts to \$65 million. The deficit on tires and tubes was down \$15 million to \$175 million in 1980. Exports were up \$20 million to \$31 million while imports increased 2.5% or \$5 million to \$207 million.

After falling just over 50% in 1979, imports of passenger cars from Japan increased by nearly one and a half times to 151,000 units in 1980 and the Japanese share of imports went from 8.7% in 1979 to 21.5% in 1980. In contrast to the 7.6% increase in average prices of passenger car imports from the United States, average prices of Japanese cars were down 5.6%, aided by a 3.4% depreciation in the value of the yen against the Canadian dollar. (Average prices of Japanese imports increased 18% in 1979 versus an increase of 16% for U.S.)

## Restaurants/Caterers/Taverns

Restaurants, caterers and taverns in Canada had total sales of \$677.7 million in January 1981, according to preliminary estimates.

For further information of sales of chains versus independents and provincial sales by kind of business, order the *Restaurant, Caterers and Taverns Survey* (catalogue 63-011, \$1.50/\$15), or contact Mrs. R. Bennett (613-996-9301), Services Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

## Production of Refrigerators/Freezers

Domestic production of refrigerators in February 1981 totalled 45,721 units. Home freezer production was 29,972 units.

For further information, order the February 1981 issue of *Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers* (43-001, \$1.50/\$15).





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## These publications released March 27 — April 2

	Catalogue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
<b>AGRICULTURE STATISTICS</b>			
Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, January 1981	62-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry, January 1981	23-003	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, March 1981	32-012	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
<b>BALANCE OF PAYMENTS</b>			
Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments, Fourth Quarter 1980	67-001	\$6/\$24	\$7.20/\$28.80
<b>BUSINESS FINANCE</b>			
Corporation Taxation Statistics, 1978	61-208	\$8	\$9.60
<b>EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE</b>			
Culture Statistics — Book Publishing: An Industry Analysis, 1978	87-601	\$6	\$7.20
Culture Statistics — Centralized School Libraries in Canada, 1978-79	87-650	\$6	\$7.20
<b>EXTERNAL TRADE</b>			
Exports by Countries, January-December 1980	65-003	\$10/\$40	\$12/\$48
<b>INFORMATION</b>			
Statistics Canada Annual Report, 1979-1980	11-201	N/C	
<b>LABOUR</b>			
Estimates of Employees by Province and Industry, December 1980	72-008	\$3/\$30	\$3.60/\$36
Preliminary Unemployment Insurance Statistics, December 1980	73-001p	N/C	
<b>MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES</b>			
Consumption, Production and Inventories of Rubber, January 1981	33-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation, February 1981	44-004	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Miscellaneous Vehicle Manufacturers, 1979	42-212	\$4.50	\$5.40
Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, February 1981	32-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Office and Store Machinery Manufacturers, 1979	42-216	\$4.50	\$5.40
Primary Iron and Steel, January 1981	41-001	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, February 1981	32-022	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder, February 1981	32-024	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Shipments of Floor Tiles, February 1981	47-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe, Tubing and Fittings, January 1981	41-011	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Refined Petroleum Products, December 1980	45-004	\$3.50/\$35	\$4.20/\$42
Shipbuilding and Repair, 1979	42-206	\$4.50	\$5.40
The Sugar Situation, February 1981	32-013	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Tobacco Products Industries, 1979	32-225	\$4.50	\$5.40
<b>PUBLIC FINANCE</b>			
Local Government Employment, October-December 1980	72-009	\$4/\$16	\$4.80/\$19.20
<b>STANDARDS</b>			
Standard Occupational Classification, 1980	12-565E	\$25	\$30
<b>TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
Railway Operating Statistics, November 1980	52-003	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
<b>SERVICE BULLETINS</b>			
Aviation Statistics Centre, Vol. 13, No. 3, Canadian Air Transport Industry, Summary Statistics	51-004	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Water Transport, Vol. 11, No. 1, Cargo Loaded and Unloaded in Coastwise Shipping by Vessels of Foreign Registries, April-June, July-September 1980 and 1979	54-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18

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