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Weekly Bulletin



May 15, 1981

Canadian Composite Leading Indicator

The index of leading indicators decelerated in February to post a 0.48% gain, down from the 0.82% rise in January. The index now stands at 137.58 compared to 136.92 in January. The deceleration was due to the third consecutive decline in the non-filtered series, which fell in February to a level of 136.9 from 137.6 in January. The drops in the non-filtered series* have been relatively small, 1.0% in December, 0.8% in January and 0.5% in February and have not reversed the upward trend of the filtered index, suggesting that although economic activity may be slowing, expansionary forces still dominate the outlook.

Leading indicators of consumer demand weakened somewhat in February. The 0.05% drop in motor vehicle sales registered in January worsened in February as sales fell a further 0.63%. Meanwhile expenditures on furniture and appliances decelerated due to a 5.9% drop in the non-filtered series.

In spite of continuing high mortgage rates, the leading index of residential construction posted a vigorous 6.04% increase in February. In its non-filtered form the index has almost doubled since its trough in May 1980 to reach a level of 100.1, not attained since 1978. The sources of growth were somewhat modified from January when all three components — housing starts, building permits and mortgage loan approvals — contributed almost equally to the increase. Building permits contributed very little to the rise in February.

Signals of weakening activity within the manufacturing sector, evident since last fall, largely disappeared in February. In spite of weakening retail sales, which represent approximately one-half of Gross National Expenditure, new orders for durable goods rose 0.7%, reflecting a healthy 10.7% climb in the non-filtered series. Likewise, the ratio of shipments to finished goods inventories rose from 1.46 to 1.48 due to an increase of 0.04 in the non-filtered series. The gain was due mainly to a widespread increase in shipments, while finished goods inventories were reduced very little. The percentage change in price per unit labour costs registered its eleventh consecutive decline and, in fact, turned negative for the first time in over three years. On a non-filtered basis, February was the second consecutive month that the

(continued on next page)

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Jan.	336.95p	325.34p	10.8
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.	14,128.6p	14,003.6p	13.4
Persons with Jobs (million)	Apr.*	10.70	10.63	3.3
Unemployed	Apr.*	886,000	983,000	-5.4

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Feb.	2,529.2	2,457.6	9.9
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb.	30,199.1p	29,865.7r	9.9
Wholesale (\$ million)	Feb.	13,636.0	13,530.3	8.0

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	14,574.6p	13,895.6r	6.5
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	19,288.0p	18,785.8r	2.0

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Mar.	229.4	226.4	12.4
Non-food (CPI) Component	Mar.	211.7	208.5	12.1
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Mar.	130.0	128.1	12.2
22-city Composite Wage, Building (1971=100)	Dec.	253.1p	253.1	9.5
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Feb.	262.6p	262.5r	9.1

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Jan.	701.2p	701.2p	-11.2
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Mar.	7,741	22,538	-2.4

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand metric tonnes)	Feb.	3 299.3	6 665.6	27.6
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Feb.	32.7	69.4	0.2
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Jan.*	9 733.8	9 733.8	-7.0
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Feb.	8.5p	17.8p	-8.0

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Mar.	7,042p	20,034p	8.2
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Mar.	6,587p	18,280p	8.2

PRODUCTION

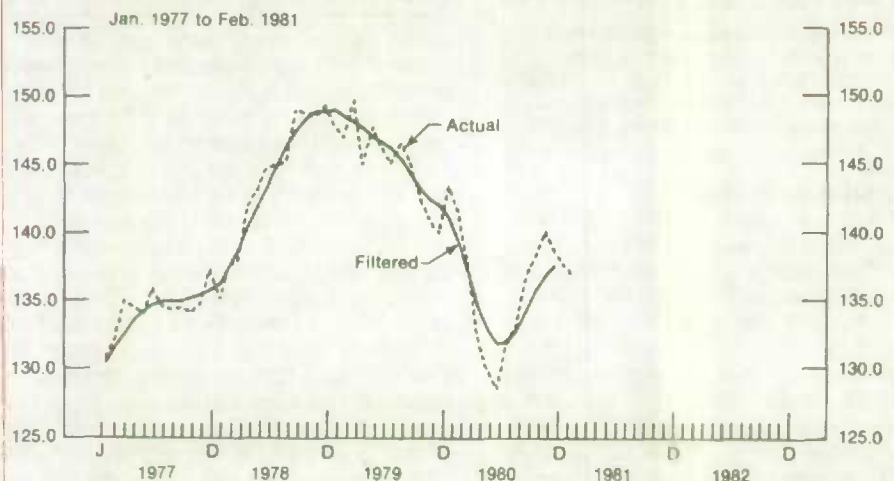
Steel (ingots — thousand metric tonnes)	Mar.	1 479.8	4 180.1	4.7
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SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Mar.*	689.2	1,902.0	11.7
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.	14,072.4p	27,570.0p	6.7
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Mar.*	1,214.2	2,842.8	3.9
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	6,337.0p	13,005.6p	14.1
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	6,361.9	12,523.9	8.1

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

The Canadian Composite Leading Index



Source: Statistics Canada, Current Economic Analysis (13-004E)

inflation rate of unit labour costs exceeded that of prices, in spite of an appreciable slowing in the growth rate of unit labour costs. Prices slowed even further, making almost no advance during the month. The average workweek fell 0.8% non-filtered and was largely responsible for the slackening in unit labour costs.

In February the United States leading index decelerated to post a gain of 0.64%. The non-filtered index registered its third consecutive decline, although the drops have not been large enough to reverse the upward trend of the filtered series. Nonetheless U.S. demand for Canada's exports seemed to be slackening and total merchandise exports fell 2.2% in the first quarter.

The Toronto Stock Index slowed for the third consecutive month. The monthly rate of growth decelerated from 4.74% in November to 0.58% in February (the index now stands at 1,733). The money supply posted a second consecutive drop (-0.42%).

** The purpose of filtering is to reduce irregular movements in the data so that one can better judge whether the current movement represents a change in the business cycle. Unfortunately, all such filtering entails a loss of timeliness in warning of cyclical changes.*

*We have attempted to minimize this loss in timeliness by filtering the leading index and its components with minimum phase shift filters so as to minimize false signals and maximize lead time. See D. Rhoades, *Converting Timeliness into Reliability in Economic Time Series or Minimum Phase-shift Filtering of Economic Time Series*, Canadian Statistical Review, February 1980.*

Over the period January 1952 to October 1980 the unfiltered index exhibited a seven-month average lead at business cycle peaks, a three-month lead at troughs, and emitted 65 false signals. The filtered index emitted only seven false signals over this period and had a five-month average lead at peaks and a one-month lead at troughs.

All references to leading indicators are to filtered data unless otherwise stated.

*For further information, order the May 1981 issue of *Current Economic Analysis* (13-004E, \$2.50/\$25), or contact D. Rhoades (613-992-4441), *Current Economic Analysis Staff*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

Raw Materials Price Index

The raw materials price index rose 1.0% in March 1981 and was up 17.9% from March 1980. The index of all materials excluding coal, oil and natural gas fell 0.5% in March, and was 4.1% above its level of a year earlier.

The index for coal, oil and natural gas rose 3.0% in March because of the 75 cents a barrel temporary increase in the petroleum compensation charge on crude oil levied in response to the cutbacks on domestic production, effective March 1st. The index was up 38.4% over the year.

Leading Indicators

	Percentage Change in February
Composite Leading Index (1971=100)	+0.48
1. Average Workweek — Manufacturing (Hours)	+0.21
2. Residential Construction Index (1971=100)	+6.04
3. United States Composite Leading Index (1967=100)	+0.64
4. Money Supply (M1) (\$1971 Millions)	+0.42
5. New Orders — Durable Products Industries (\$1971 Millions)	+0.70
6. Retail Trade — Furniture and Appliances (\$1971 Millions)	+3.32
7. New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$1971 Millions)	-0.63
8. Shipment to Inventory Ratio (Finished Goods) — Manufacturing	+0.02(1)
9. Stock Price Index (TSE300 Excluding Oil and Gas 1975=1000)	+0.58
10. Percentage Change in Price Per Unit Labour Costs	-0.02(1)
(1) Net Change	

A Note on the Role of Leading Indicators in the Statistical System

Policy-makers and decision-makers in both the government and private sectors are making increased and more sophisticated uses of quarterly national accounts and of other macro-economic frameworks in order to evaluate the current performance of the economy and to detect its underlying trends. However, by the time users have access to the elaborate frameworks which allow them to analyze the economy in a relatively disciplined fashion, events with consequences for the near and medium term future may have already taken place. The first quantitative manifestation of current economic developments often occurs in a group of indicators that lead cyclical movements in the economy and that can be assembled rapidly as events unfold. Consequently it is not surprising that "leading indicators" have long played a role in assessing current economic conditions. In the last decade the increased severity of recessions worldwide has disabused most analysts of the notion that the business cycle is dead and has rekindled interest in the leading indicator approach to economic analysis. Since the early 1970s the number of organizations, both in Canada and elsewhere, that have developed indicator systems to monitor economic developments is quite impressive. All of this activity has stimulated inquiries into the nature of the work being carried out and into possible directions of evolution of indicator systems.

These inquiries have led Statistics Canada to develop a set of theoretical guidelines that are useful in constructing, evaluating, or in guiding the evolution of leading indicator systems. Also, technical advances in data smoothing have been utilized so that the number of false signals emitted by the leading index has been minimized while preserving the maximum amount of lead time. A paper on these topics will shortly be published in a forthcoming issue of the new publication *Current Economic Analysis* (catalogue number 13-004E). Within the limits of this note we can only be suggestive and indicate that a leading indicator system should be structured as much as possible like the framework (eg. the quarterly national accounts) that it is intended to complement, and it must contain a broad enough range of component indicators to enable the system to warn of cyclical changes that may be generated by any of a large variety of causal mechanisms. Although the current version of Statistics Canada's leading indicator system does not incorporate all the implications of the theoretical guidelines, along with the guidelines, it constitutes a useful addition to the indicator systems in Canada, and will become increasingly more so as the system evolves in accordance with the theoretical principles underlying its development.

The largest percentage decline in the latest month was recorded for vegetable products, down 3.5%, mainly due to lower prices for raw sugar (-14%), wheat and other grains (-2%) and green coffee (-6%). The price index for raw sugar rose sharply in 1980, peaking in October; since then it has declined almost as rapidly as it went up, though it is still 22% above its level of a year earlier. The price index for grains declined for the first time in March after a continuous rise in the last year during which prices had risen by a one-third. The main reason for the increase had been the last year's depressed harvest in Canada and in the United States. The index for vegetable products was 25.7% higher than in March 1980, though it has fallen over the last six months.

The animal products index declined 0.5%

in March, mainly due to a price decrease for hogs of 9.2%. But the index was still up 4.3% from a year earlier.

A decrease of 0.7% in March in the non-ferrous materials index reflected lower prices for precious metals, especially silver and, to a lesser extent aluminum; but prices for lead increased 20%, reversing a steady decline since November 1980. During the latest 12 months, the over-all index registered a decline of 17.8%.

The index for non-ferrous metals rose 1.5% in March principally because of higher prices for steel scrap (+3%).

*For further information, order the March 1981 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$3.50/\$35), or contact the Information Unit (613-995-5738), Industrial Prices Section, Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.*

Labour Force Survey

Canada's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 7.0% in April 1981 from 7.4% in March; a year earlier the rate was 7.5%. The participation rate dipped to 54.6% in April from 64.7% in March, while the employment/population ratio edged up to 60.1% from 60.0%.

Last month, the seasonally adjusted employment level at 10,959,000 was up by 37,000 from March. The employment level increased for all major age/sex groups, with the largest increases occurring for men 25 years of age and over (+14,000) and for women 25 and over (+10,000). On a provincial basis, employment increased in Ontario (+17,000), Alberta (+14,000) and Nova Scotia (+6,000), while it decreased slightly in Quebec (-6,000) and showed little change elsewhere.

Unemployment, seasonally adjusted, totalled 826,000 in April, down substantially (-41,000) from March. The declines were concentrated in the 15 to 24 age group — 23,000 among men and 10,000 among women (the decline was particularly noticeable among students). For persons aged 25 and over, there was a slight decline among men (-9,000) and little change among women. Provincially, the level of unemployment dropped in Ontario (-16,000), Quebec (-15,000), Nova Scotia (-6,000) and Alberta (-5,000).

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the provinces in April were as follows, with March rates in brackets: Newfoundland, 12.4% (13.2%); Prince Edward Island, 11.1% (12.8%); Nova Scotia, 8.7% (10.3%); New Brunswick, 11.1% (10.6%); Quebec, 9.4% (9.8%); Ontario, 6.2% (6.6%); Manitoba, 5.9% (6.3%); Saskatchewan, 4.0% (4.6%); Alberta, 3.6% (4.1%); and British Columbia, 6.0% (6.1%).

Without seasonal adjustment, the employment level for Canada in April was estimated at 10,700,000, up 3.3% (346,000) from a year earlier. Over the 12 months, the number of unemployed dropped 5.4% to 886,000 from 937,000. The unemployment rate in April at 7.6% was down from 8.3% in April 1980.

For further information, order the April 1981 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, \$3.50/\$35).

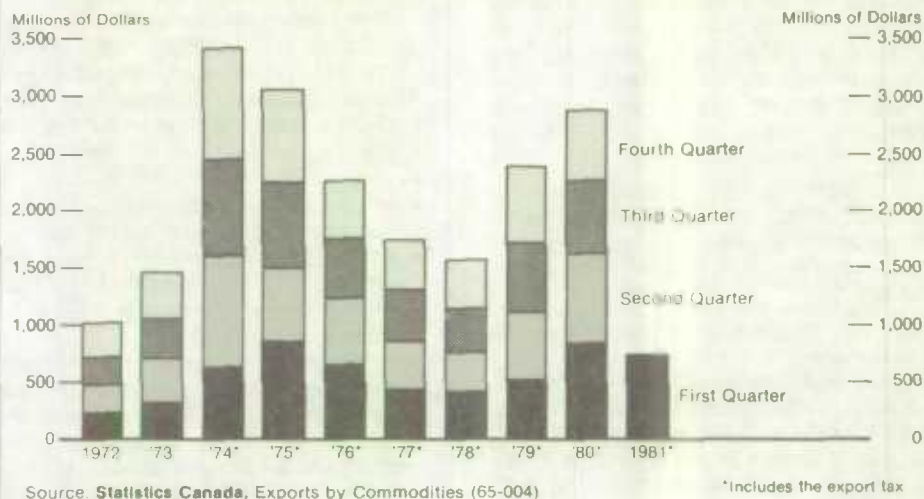
Petroleum/Natural Gas Production

Production of crude petroleum and equivalent hydrocarbons during January 1981 amounted to 7 428 300 cubic metres, down 6.2% from 7 920 100 cubic metres a year earlier.

Net new production of natural gas amounted to 9 733.8 million cubic metres in the latest month, a decrease of 7.0% from 10 466.7 million cubic metres in January 1980.

For further information, order the January 1981 issue of *Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, \$2.50/\$25), or contact Ian Cavanagh (613-996-3139), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Canadian Exports of Crude Petroleum to the United States



International Travel

Preliminary statistics for the month of March 1981 show that Canadian residents returning from visits to both the United States and other countries decreased from the same month in 1980. The number of U.S. residents visiting Canada continued to increase due to the dramatic growth in short-term automobile entries, but visitors from countries other than the U.S. declined slightly from the year-earlier period.

Statistics for March 1981 show that 2.7 million Canadian residents returned from visits to the U.S., down 2.5% from a year earlier, while the number of Canadians re-entering from trips to countries other than the U.S. decreased by 14.6% to 159,000. Residents of the U.S. entering Canada numbered 2.9 million, up 39.0% from March 1980 (primarily due to a 48.6% rise in same-day automobile visits). Visitors from countries other than the U.S. decreased by 2.5% to 72,000.

During the first three months of 1981, 6.9 million Canadians returned from visits to the U.S., down 3.1% from last year, while residents returning from other countries decreased by 12.2% to 454,000. A total of 7.3 million U.S. residents entered Canada, up 32.7% from the first quarter of 1980, and 182,000 visitors from countries other than the U.S. entered Canada, up 0.3%.

In the first quarter of 1981, long-term Canadian re-entries from the United States (including overnight or longer auto and bus traffic and all plane, train and boat re-entries) decreased by 2.7% to 2.3 million. Canadian residents returning from visits to countries other than the U.S. decreased by 12.2% to 454,000. Long-term entries to Canada by U.S. residents for the first quarter of 1981 increased by 5.4% to 1.1 million, while visitors from other countries (excluding those arriving by land via the U.S. and entering and leaving on the same day) numbered 163,000, 0.6% above the first quarter of 1980.

For further information, order the March 1981 issue of *International Travel* — Advance

Information (66-002, \$1.50/\$15), or contact Paul Paradis (613-995-0847), International Travel Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z8.

Oil Pipeline Transport

Net receipts of crude oil, condensates, pentanes plus, liquefied petroleum gases and petroleum products through Canadian oil pipelines during February 1981 decreased 10.5% to 11 660 898 cubic metres from 13 032 269 cubic metres a year earlier.

For further information, order the February 1981 issue of *Oil Pipeline Transport* (55-001, \$2.50/\$25).

Updated Index to Federal Programs and Services

The 1981 edition of the *Index to Programs and Services* was recently released by the Task Force on Service to the Public in separate English and French editions. This 400-page publication is a completely revised and updated version of the *Index to Government of Canada Programs and Services* published in March 1979, and its *Amendment* in March 1980.

The 1981 edition includes short descriptions of all programs and services offered to the public by 90 federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations, a 5,000-word subject index, and an address list of approximately 10,000 federal government regional district and branch offices. Final update for the information was December 1, 1980.

Copies may be purchased for \$7.95 from authorized Government of Canada bookstore agents, or from the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Hull, Québec, K1R 0S9.

Copies are also available for reference purposes in Statistics Canada regional offices.

Scenario for 1981 Census Products

This, the second of a five-part sequence appearing monthly in *Infomat* on the products and services emanating from the 1981 Census of Population, describes two of the four Series to be produced: the Official Release Series and the Descriptive Series. The other two Series (Data and Reference) will be described in future issues.

The 1981 Official Release Series is designed primarily to meet policy requirements on data release, to announce the release of products, or to promote the use of Census data.

Statements will appear in the *Statistics Canada Daily* announcing the availability of data and other products. These will include brief narratives discussing the data at the Canada and province level, showing historical changes where applicable. Similar announcements will appear in *Infomat*, while *Communiqué* will contain product descriptions and release dates.

Press releases aimed at regions, metropolitan areas or provinces will also be issued concerning those universes and variables with special news value.

The 1981 Descriptive Series will consist of two subseries — Content and Metropolitan Atlas. The former will be similar in scope to the 1976 Census Popular Series (e.g., *Canada's Elderly*). Descriptions of trends and characteristics will be largely at the Canada and province level. The Metropolitan Atlas publications will describe 12 of the major Census Metropolitan Areas using thematic maps to depict approximately 30 socio-economic and demographic themes, along with a minimum of text.

Sales Forecasting Practices

The Conference Board of Canada published an 84-page report entitled *Sales Forecasting in Canada: A Survey of Practices* in late 1980. The study identifies and discusses some of the key managerial concerns involved in the selection of a sales forecasting method that is both appropriate to the needs of the firm and compatible with its resource limitations. It is based primarily on a survey of 316 Canadian companies, but it also draws on extensive discussions with participants in the Board's annual sales forecasting workshops over the past several years.

The report is organized into two parts. The first presents an in-depth examination of the selection process and provides a framework within which a manager may evaluate different forecasting techniques. The second part, which contains seven component sections, presents a brief description of the major forecasting techniques and reports survey findings on the major characteristics of forecasts that have been derived via these techniques. This second part is provided both to permit comparisons of corporate practice and to

identify how the implementation of forecasting procedures drawing on different techniques has been achieved in practice.

The six major types of sales forecasting techniques examined are: jury of executive opinion, sales force composite, survey of users' expectations, time-series analysis, regression analysis and indicator analysis.

Almost 40% of the surveyed firms that do sales forecasting use indicator analysis. In virtually all of these firms, the technique is used to complement the forecasting capabilities of one or more other techniques, since indicator analysis does not attempt to provide a specific numerical estimate of future company sales.

In terms of the specific types of indicators in use, most companies participating in the survey maintain and monitor a set of

UPDATE ON BUSINESS STATISTICS

The latest meeting of the Federal-Provincial Committee on Business Statistics was held in Ottawa on January 27-28, 1981. Reports presented to delegates included summaries of developments in subject matter divisions such as Prices, Transportation and Communications, Manufacturing and Primary Industries, Merchandising and Services, Labour, External Trade, Business Register and Construction of the Economic Statistics Field. Highlights of their reports which may be of interest to users follow:

Prices

- Whitehorse and Yellowknife were added to the price collection coverage of the City Average Retail Food Prices Survey, beginning in October 1980;
- An updated experimental study on low-income CPI was published. The first study appeared in *Canadian Statistical Review* (April 1978) and an updated version was released in the first quarter 1980 issue of *Consumer Prices and Price Indexes* (catalogue No. 62-010);
- CPI revision — planned for introduction in the first half of 1982 — will include replacing the 1974 expenditure data currently being used by those from the 1978 Family Expenditure Survey; retrenching on the number of cities in which prices are being collected; and no changes in the treatment of home ownership, consumer credit and seasonal availability;
- Production of additional isolated post allowance indexes resulting from surveys conducted in Manitoba, coastal British Columbia, northern Ontario, Quebec and Labrador;
- The full set of industry selling price indexes and aggregations on a 1981 base are expected to be published in 1985;
- Publication of more detailed commodity levels when the raw materials price index is revised to a 1981 base;
- A new quarterly series of Machinery and Equipment Price Indexes by Industry of Purchase will be released in 1981 accompanied by a reference paper describing their manner of construction;
- New housing price indexes are published for 19 metropolitan areas. Some 900 sample units will be added to the survey for 1981-82 fiscal year;
- Beginning in the first quarter of 1981, Output Price Indexes of Non-residential Construction (selected buildings) will be published quarterly rather than annually;
- First publication of the Canadian Telecommunications Plant Indexes (base 1979=100), jointly produced by the Canadian Telecommunication Carriers Association and Statistics Canada, in 1980.

Construction

- Reinstatement and publication of the preliminary and forecast data of *Construction of Canada* (Catalogue No. 64-201) for 1979 and 1980;
- A survey of selected federal government departments was undertaken to collect construction expenditures by structure for preliminary and forecast data;
- A database was created of all construction industry census data covering 1975-78;
- The *Housing Starts and Completions* publication (catalogue No. 64-002) was expanded to include tables on monthly and quarterly comparisons of housing starts for three years by province and types of dwelling;
- Building permits information is now available for large urban agglomerations of 50,000 population below the census metropolitan area level and for economic regions in each province on a monthly (revised) basis. Cumulative up-to-date tabular material is available by province for structural detail;

indicators that has been developed for the analysis of either general economic conditions (84%) or general industry conditions (81%), although just over 63% have developed a set of indicators for use in directly analysing company sales. A set of general economic and industry indicators will typically consist of perhaps half a dozen individual variables, data on which are gathered from Statistics Canada and other external agencies. These indicators typically include items such as Gross National Product, consumer spending, interest rates and a variety of industry-specific statistics.

Copies of the report may be obtained from the office of The Conference Board of Canada, Suite 900, 25 McArthur Road, Ottawa Ontario, K1L 6R3. For non-Associates of the Board, the price is \$30.

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- Building permits data file with geographical identification consistent with the standard geographical code can now be obtained;
- Intercensal estimates of the physical housing stock broken down into occupied and vacant, by tenure and major types of dwellings were developed for each province. This series would be of interest to users involved in analyses relating to growth of real estate, energy requirements, etc.;
- A project to provide more refined data on home rehabilitation and renovation expenditures is underway.

Merchandising and Services

- Final tabulations from the origin and destination survey of wholesalers are expected to be ready by July 1981;
- Data from the newly-designed survey of restaurants, caterers and taverns were released in March 1981;
- Data from Revenue Canada, Taxation, are being used to produce statistics on franchisees, registered charities and operating results for restaurants;
- A feasibility study is underway to produce department store statistics for more metropolitan areas and to produce provincial estimates for each of 40 departments;
- Studies have been undertaken on food chain stores and on foreign ownership in Canadian retailing;
- Estimates from a redesigned monthly wholesale trade survey, begun in January, will be available in the late spring of 1981.

Business Register

- Development of a small business statistical series based on taxation-derived information is under study;
- The contents of the Business Register are being upgraded to meet the requirements of the new survey of employment, payrolls and hours.

External Trade

- A new method of adjusting the total value of Canadian imports and exports for seasonal variations is being considered.

Manufacturing and Primary Industries

- The results of the improved coverage of the census of manufactures and logging on each individual industry can be provided to users. This is in the same format as Table 1 of the 1978 issue of publication No. 31-203, *Manufacturing Industries of Canada — National and Provincial Areas*.

Transportation and Communications

- Availability of a non-catalogued publication entitled *Statistical Information on Transportation Available from Federal and Provincial Governments 1980*, a guide to all users of the supply of transportation information;
- Work on an assessment of demand for transportation statistics is underway.

Labour

- The revised survey of employment, payrolls and hours will be phased in, beginning with the August 1981 reference month. It will become fully operational beginning in April 1982 when the present surveys will be discontinued;
- Unemployment insurance statistics at the census division level are now available in the quarterly publication, No. 73-001, *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act*;
- The Labour Cost Survey covering the reference year 1980, originally planned to be conducted in 1981, was cancelled. A committee was established to review all aspects of the area of labour costs statistics.

Building Permits

Canadian municipalities authorized building construction estimated at a seasonally adjusted \$1,570.5 million in February 1981, up 6.8% from \$1,470.2 million in January and 21.1% higher than the February 1980 level of \$1,296.8 million. The high level of building permits activity reflected continuing strength in both the residential and non-residential sectors.

Residential building permits were issued for a seasonally adjusted value of \$848.3 million in February compared to \$832.2 million in January. Dwelling units authorized totalled 16,569 (9,902 single-detached and 6,667 multiple units) compared to 15,254 (8,568 singles and 6,686 multiples) in January.

In the non-residential sector, the seasonally adjusted value of all types of building construction rose 13.1% to \$721.6 million in February from \$637.9 million in January. Commercial building permits increased 30.6% to \$464.4 million in February from \$355.6 million in January; institutional and government permits rose 8.5% to \$132.4 million from \$122.1 million; and industrial permits decreased 22.1% to \$124.8 million from \$160.3 million.

For further information, order the February 1981 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$3.50/\$35), or contact J.P. Delisle (613-995-8213), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z7.

Travel by Canadians

Under the title "A Survey on Domestic Travel by Canadians", the April 10, 1981 edition of *Infomat* described two sources of information on travel by Canadians compiled from the quarterly Canadian Travel Survey.

The article indicated that this survey, conducted by Statistics Canada under co-sponsorship of the Canadian Government Office of Tourism and Transport Canada, provides the basic information to quarterly analytical bulletins produced by CGOT and by Statistics Canada.

The Economic and Regional Analysis Branch of Transport Canada is also involved in the analysis of these data. The recently published *Summer Travel by Canadians* illustrates the type of extensive analyses carried out. In this document, the information gathered in the first of these quarterly surveys, which covered the period July-September 1978, is used to compare the socio-economic profile of travellers against that of non-travellers, to analyse the choice of mode and the purpose of trips according to the socio-economic characteristics of travellers as well as the trip characteristics and to provide some origin and destination information broken down by regions.

A second document entitled *Travel by Canadians 1977-1980*, calls upon the information gathered by all the quarterly surveys up to the second quarter of 1980 to analyse trends and patterns in travels by Canadians according to modes and purpose of travel, socio-economic characteristics and the origin and destination of travel.

Further information regarding these two publications may be obtained by contacting Mr. R. Hinchcliff (613-593-5063), Economic and Regional Analysis Branch, Transport Canada, Floor 22-E, Tower "C", Place de Ville, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N5.

Copies of both publications are available for reference purposes in Statistics Canada regional offices.

Sugar Sales

Canadian sugar refineries reported total sales of 79 139 092 kilograms of all types of sugar for April 1981, 78 271 208 kilograms in domestic sales and 867 884 kilograms in export sales.

For detailed information on stocks, production and shipments (sales) of refined sugar for the same period, order the April 1981 issue of *The Sugar Situation* (32-013, \$1.50/\$15), or contact Karen Wardley (613-996-3226), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

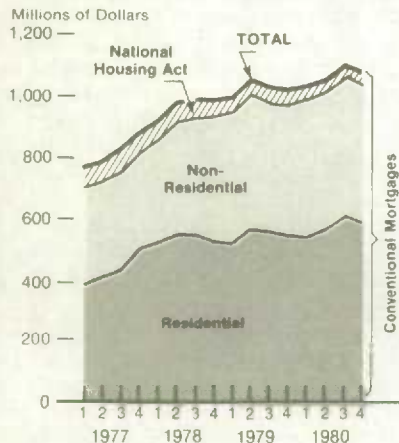
Estimates of Employees

Monthly summary data are released on a regular basis in the *Statistics Canada Daily*, while detailed monthly information is published in catalogue 72-008, *Estimates of Employees by Province and Industry*.

For further information, contact G. Mahoney (613-995-6868), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V2.

Real Estate Investment Trusts

Quarterly Statement of Mortgages Outstanding



Source: Statistics Canada, Financial Institutions, Financial Statistics (61-006)

Traveller Accommodation, 1979

Total receipts reported by 16,262 traveller accommodation businesses in Canada for 1979 amounted to \$4,049.2 million. Included in the total were 5,002 hotels with reported receipts of \$3,279.0 million and 4,046 motels with receipts of \$473.0 million. The remaining \$297.2 million in receipts was accounted for by 7,214 other types of traveller accommodation firms (tourist homes, tourist courts and cabins, outfitters and tent and trailer campgrounds).

For further information contact Mrs. R. Bennett (613-996-9301), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

Telephone Statistics

Canada's 13 major telephone systems reported revenues of \$548.4 million in March 1981, up 20.9% from a year earlier. Operating expenses increased 19.3% to \$388.7 million. Net operating revenue at \$159.8 million showed an increase of 24.9% over March 1980. Telephone toll messages increased 11.0% to 117.4 million.

For further information, order the March 1981 issue of Telephone Statistics (56-002, \$1.50/\$15), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Phonograph Records/Tapes

Canadian manufacturers produced 8,057,658 phonograph records in March 1981, up from 7,521,975 a year earlier.

Production of pre-recorded tapes declined to 1,349,676 in the latest month from 1,673,269 in March 1980.

For further information, order the March 1981 issue of Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada (47-004, \$1.50/\$15), or contact Brian Preston (613-996-3226), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Department Store Sales by Regions

Department store sales totalled \$689.2 million in March 1981, an increase of 11.4% from a year earlier. Sales were higher in all regions of Canada.

Department store sales by regions for the latest month were as follows, with percentage increases from March 1980 in brackets:

- Ontario, \$232.7 million (10.8%)
- British Columbia, \$134.5 million (17.9%)
- Quebec, \$118.5 million (4.5%)
- Alberta, \$105.8 million (14.1%)
- Atlantic Provinces, \$38.6 million (6.2%)
- Manitoba, \$37.5 million (9.4%)
- Saskatchewan, \$21.6 million (21.6%).

Data users should note that the figures for British Columbia include as well those for the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. See the March 1981 issue of Department Store Sales by Regions (63-004, \$1.50/\$15).

Railway Carloadings

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada totalled 21.9 million short tons (19.9 million t) in March 1981, a decrease of 0.2% from a year earlier. The carriers received an additional 1.7 million short tons (1.6 million t) from the United States, down 7.3% from March 1980.

Commodities registering notable changes in volumes loaded in the latest month were: wheat (up 15.7%); potash (up 14.9%); coal (up 10.6%); and iron ore and concentrates (down 14.1%).

Total loadings in Canada during the first three months of 1981 showed an increase of 0.6% from the 1980 period while receipts from U.S. connections decreased by 5.2%.

For further information, order the March 1981 issue of Railway Carloadings (52-001, \$1.50/\$15). For seasonally adjusted revenue freight loadings, contact C.S. Cannif (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Steel Ingots/Pig Iron

Preliminary estimate of steel ingots production for the month of April 1981 was 1,593,898 short tons (1 445 960 t), up from 1,468,031 short tons (1 331 775 t) a year earlier.

Pig iron production totalled 1,063,636 short tons (964 914 t) in the latest month, up from 977,414 short tons (886 695 t) in April 1980.

For further information, order the April 1981 issue of Steel Ingots and Pig Iron (41-002, \$1.50/\$15), or contact Gerry W. Barrett (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

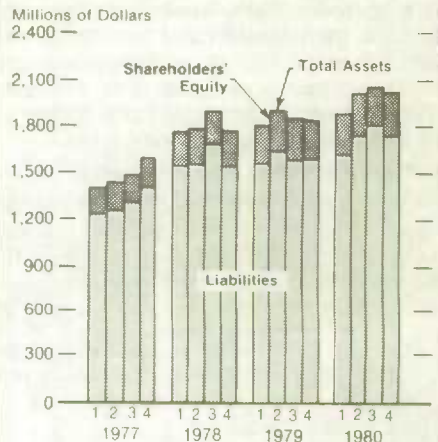
Mink Production

Preliminary information for 1980 indicates that mink production at Canadian fur farms (excluding Ontario) was 675,593 pelts compared with 599,597 in 1979.

For further information, contact P.L. Beers-techer (613-996-4853), Agriculture Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Real Estate Investment Trusts

Quarterly Statement of Estimated Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity



Source: Statistics Canada, Financial Institutions, Financial Statistics (61-006)

Estimates of Housing, 1941-1980

The total net stock of dwelling units in Canada at an estimated 8,355,419 in 1980 shows a small increase of 2.0% over the 1979 total of 8,190,069. In the last decade the average annual increase was 3.3%. A 22.4% drop in the number of completed dwellings in 1980 contributed to the absorption of vacant units which now stands at 385,119 or 4.6% of the total stock.

Revised estimates of housing stock are available for Canada, the provinces and territories, for each year starting with 1941. The year-end stock estimate series include all non-collective dwellings available for occupancy on a year-round basis, excluding mobile homes. The total net housing stock is obtained by the perpetual inventory method, using Census data as benchmarks. Therefore, estimates pertaining to years subsequent to the 1976 Census should be considered as preliminary until official 1981 Census data are published.

For further information, contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-995-8213), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Catalogued Publications

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Employment/Earnings/Hours

The first estimate of the Canada industrial composite* index of employment (1961=100) for February 1981 showed a 0.4% increase from January. All industry divisions increased except transportation, communication and other utilities, finance, insurance and real estate and services which decreased. All regions contributed to the increase except British Columbia which registered losses.

Average weekly earnings, at the national industrial level, advanced by 0.5%. Gains were registered in all divisions except forestry, construction and finance, insurance and real estate which decreased. All regions contributed to the increase.

Average weekly hours decreased in manufacturing and in construction but remained unchanged in mining (including milling). Average hourly earnings rose in mining (including milling), in manufacturing and in construction.

* Industrial composite is the sum of all industries with the exception of agriculture, fishing and trapping, education and related services, health and welfare services, religious organizations, private households and public administration and defence. Notes on concepts and methods can be found in any issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours*.

Detailed information for December and January will be published in the February 1981 issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, \$4/\$40), and is also available from R. Ouellette (613-992-5613), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Social Concepts Directory

The *Social Concepts Directory*, a guide for the designer of small-scale social surveys, provides advice, gives examples of questions and identifies pitfalls for major components of the social survey process. The *Directory* is intended as a reference for those about to design or conduct a survey, but it is also useful for those interpreting survey results, as it permits users to evaluate the strengths and limitations of their statistical sources.

The *Directory* contains concepts, questions and response classes, as well as comments and cautions for such topics as demography, the socio-economic domain, housing and household amenities, culture and education, health and attitudinal surveying. Included is a brief methodological chapter for the occasional survey planner.

For further information, order the *Social Concepts Directory: A Guide Towards Standardization in Statistical Surveys* (12-560, Canada: \$8; other countries: \$9.60), or contact H.A. Freedman (613-996-7825), Standards Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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.

Current Economic Analysis

Now available is *Current Economic Analysis* (13-004E, \$2.50/\$25), a monthly publication which provides, in a manner easily accessible to the public, an integrated commentary on the most recent data releases covering leading economic indicators, consumption, employment, output, investment, finance, prices, external trade, etc. Included is a news summary of major domestic and international developments contributing to the economic outlook and extensive tables and charts containing analytically useful transformations of the basic source data. Because of this emphasis on analytical transformations of the data, the publication is not meant to serve as a compendium of source data on the macro-economy. Users requiring such a compendium are urged to consult the *Canadian Statistical Review*.

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.

Standard Industrial Classification

The 1980 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification* is now available. The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), which represents one of Canada's oldest and most widely used classification systems, reflects as accurately as possible the actual structure of industry in the economy.

While of special interest to users of statistics, the manual will also be of assistance in non-statistical applications, such as the structuring of administrative files including classification of customers. The SIC makes a major contribution toward the establishment of greater uniformity in the classification of information on an industry basis, which is a prerequisite to the integration of data originating from different sources.

For further information, order the 1980 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification* (12-501E, Canada: \$25; other countries: \$30), or contact Gérard Côté (613-996-7825), Standards Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

SOC 1980 Edition Available

The 1980 edition of the *Standard Occupational Classification* (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).

Farm Prices/Agricultural Products

The Canada index number of farm prices of agricultural products (1971=100) for March 1981 decreased by 0.4% to 285.9 from the revised February level of 287.1.

The index, which measures (as closely as can be determined) prices received by producers at the farm gate, is available on CANSIM (matrix 176) or in the Statistics Canada publication *Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products* (62-003, \$1.50/\$15). This release incorporates Canadian Wheat Board adjustment payments for the period August 1980 to date. Sub-indexes for livestock, crops and their components are available to users by contacting the Farm Income and Prices Section. For further information, contact George Beelen (613-995-4895), Agriculture Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

These publications released May 8 — 13

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
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Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, April 1, 1981	32-010	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
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Department Store Sales by Regions, March 1981	63-004	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
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Provincial Government Enterprise Finance, 1978	61-204	\$7	\$8.40
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