

Statistics
CanadaStatistique
Canada

informat

Weekly Bulletin

May 8, 1981

Canadian Trade/Preliminary Statement

From preliminary results, it is estimated that on a seasonally adjusted balance-of-payments basis, Canada's exports fell 2% or \$132 million to \$6,548 million in March 1981 after a 4.6% decrease in February and a 6.2% increase in January. Imports fell slightly more than exports with a 2.9% or \$183 million decrease to \$6,036 million following a 0.8% increase in February and a 4.4% increase in January. The merchandise trade surplus therefore increased \$51 million to \$512 million in March 1981 from \$461 million in February.

First quarter 1981 exports were down 2.2% or \$461 million to \$20.2 billion following a strong 10% increase in the fourth quarter of 1980. In contrast to the decrease for exports, imports increased 7% or \$659 million to \$18.4 billion, after a 6.5% increase in the fourth quarter. Consequently, the merchandise trade surplus decreased \$1,120 million to \$1,793 million in the first quarter of 1981 from \$2,913 million in the fourth quarter of 1980.

The slowdown in growth of the short term export trend since October 1980 culminated in a peak in December 1980 followed by a slight decrease in January. Growth in the import trend started to slow one month later than the export trend with increases of 2.7% in October, 2.2% in November, 1.4% in December and 1.2% in January. As a result, the short term trend for the merchandise trade balance peaked in October 1980 at \$918 million and decreased \$24 million in November, \$54 million in December and \$84 million to \$756 million in January 1981.

Commodity Analysis

On a customs basis, for seasonally adjusted domestic exports the largest decreases in value in March were for non-ferrous metals (down \$85 million to \$385 million, thus cancelling a similar increase in February), metal ores, concentrates and scrap (down \$70 million to \$305 million following a \$45 million increase in February), coal (down \$55 million to \$45 million) and aircraft and other transportation equipment (down \$65 million in February and \$50 million in March to \$150 million). The largest increases for March occurred for passenger cars (up \$110 million to \$390 million following a \$65 million decrease in February) and cereals including wheat (up \$70

(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)	Mar.	10.63	10.58	3.2
Unemployed	Mar.	983,000	928,000	1.4

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)	Dec.	10,054.9	97,702.0	-7.4
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
---	------	---------	---------	-----

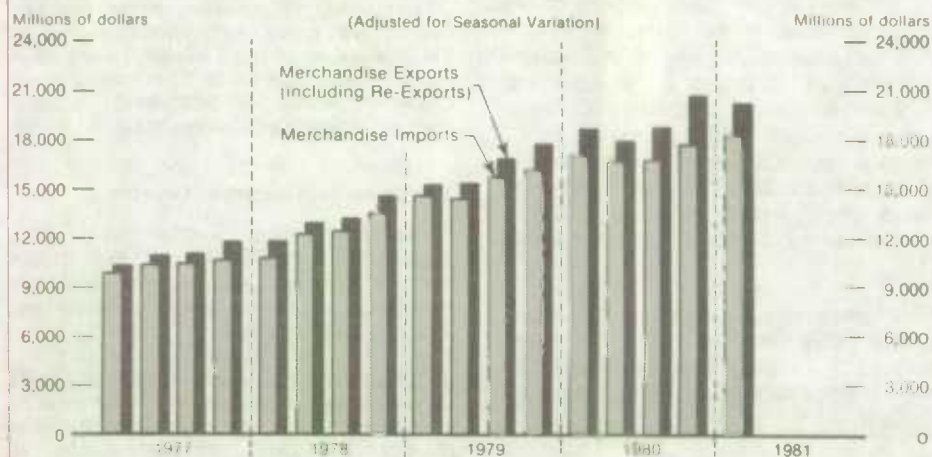
SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	587.0	1,229.5	13.6
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.	14,072.4p	27,570.0p	6.7
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	856.5	1,628.6	-1.6
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.

Canadian Merchandise Exports and Imports*

Quarter-by-Quarter Movements



* Balance of Payments Basis

Source: Statistics Canada, Summary of External Trade (65-001)

million to \$460 million following a \$115 million decrease in February).

The largest increase in import values for March 1981 was for crude petroleum (up \$85 million to \$660 million following a \$115 million decrease in February). The largest decreases in value occurred for non-ferrous metals, petroleum and coal products and passenger cars. In all three cases, decreases of about \$65 million cancelled most or all of a substantial increase in the preceding month.

Trading Partner Analysis

Exports to the United States, seasonally adjusted and on a customs basis, decreased 4.8% or \$215 million in March to \$4.24 billion after decreasing 1.5% in February. Exports to the United Kingdom were up 8.4% or \$25 million to \$310 million following a 15% increase in the preceding month. There was a decrease in exports to Japan of 11.2% or \$50 million to \$395 million after a 20% increase in February. Exports to "Other OECD" countries went up 22% or \$35 million to \$210 million, partly recovering the decline of 36% in the previous month. There was little or no change in exports to "Other EEC" countries and "Other America".

Imports from the U.S. decreased 5.7% or \$260 million in March to \$4.32 billion after increasing 5.2% in the preceding month. Imports from "Other EEC" countries decreased 11.6% or \$40 million to \$290 million following a 17.4% increase in February. There was little change in imports from Japan. Imports from "Other OECD" countries increased 19% or \$30 million to \$180 million, and imports from "Other America" increased 6.7% to \$420 million after increasing 8.2% in February.

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

Export (Domestic) and Import Price and Volume Indexes

On a fixed weight basis, export prices increased 3.5% in February following a 1.3% increase in January. The February increase was the largest since September 1979 and was largely due to a substantial increase in crude petroleum export prices. Import prices increased 2.2% after a 0.4% increase in January. The current weighted export price deflator increased 0.8% in February and the import deflator declined 2.1%.

The seasonally adjusted domestic export volume index declined 7.2% following an increase of 3.9% in January and the import volume index advanced 3.4% after a 2% increase.

For further information, order the March 1981 issue of Summary of External Trade (65-001, \$3/\$30).

Catalogued Publications

Order through:

Publications Distribution
User Services Division
4th Floor, R.H. Coats Building
Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V7.

State:

Title of Report
Month, Quarter or Year of Issue
Catalogue Number.

Please enclose money order or cheque made payable to the order of: Receiver General for Canada.

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Payments made to unemployment insurance claimants in February 1981 amounted to \$476 million, a decrease of 2% from January but up 14% from February 1980. For the first two months of 1981, payments were \$963 million, up 8% from the same period in 1980. The rise in the year-to-date payments is due to a 9% increase in the average weekly benefit to \$130.03 as the number of weeks of benefit paid decreased marginally.

The number of claimants qualifying for unemployment insurance benefits for the week ended February 21 totalled 864,000, an increase of 1% from both the month-earlier and year-earlier figures. Thirty-six percent of the beneficiaries were females, the same proportion as in February 1980.

Persons applying for unemployment insurance benefits filed 206,000 claims in February, down 33% from the previous month (a decrease in claims is usual between January and February). Compared with February 1980, claims were down 5%. For the first two months of 1981, claims filed totalled 511,000, down 8% from the same period in 1980.

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.

Restaurants/Caterers/Taverns

Restaurants, caterers and taverns in Canada had sales of \$658.0 million in February 1981, according to preliminary estimates. Revised estimates for January indicate total sales of \$665.2 million.

For further information on sales of chains versus independents and provincial sales by kind of business, order Restaurant Statistics (63-011, \$1.50/\$15), or contact Mrs. R. Bennett (613-996-9301), Services Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

New Motor Vehicle Sales

New motor vehicles sold in March 1981 totalled 123,273 units, up 1.5% from a year earlier. This included 67,733 passenger cars (down 10.4%) and 27,033 commercial vehicles (down 10.9%) manufactured in Canada and the U.S., and 25,301 passenger cars (up 80.3%) and 3,206 commercial vehicles (up 114.3%) manufactured overseas.

Total sales value increased 12.1% to \$1,214.2 million. Canadian and U.S. passenger cars sold for \$620.7 million (up 0.4%) and commercial vehicles for \$352.4 million (up 0.9%). Sales of passenger cars from overseas increased 104.3% to \$213.7 million and those of commercial vehicles increased 154.1% to \$27.4 million. Included in total commercial vehicles sold were 330 units of coaches and buses valued at \$11.5 million.

Seasonally adjusted March sales of passenger cars manufactured in Canada and the U.S. increased 6.8% from February to 59,436 units and those of passenger cars from overseas increased 0.5% to 24,195 units. Similarly adjusted sales of all commercial vehicles were up 10.1% to 26,841 units.

For the first three months of 1981, total sales reached 294,489 units (313,997 in 1979), with an accumulated value of \$2,842.8 million. This represented an increase of 3.9% in value over sales for January-March 1980.

For further information, order the March 1981 issue of New Motor Vehicle Sales (63-007, \$2.50/\$25), or contact M. Kwilecki (613-996-9304), Retail Trade Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

Urban Transit

Canadian urban transit systems (58) collected 123,958,192 initial passenger fares in March 1981. The total distance run was 61 063 778 km and operating revenues amounted to \$47,706,389.

For further information, order the March 1981 issue of Urban Transit (53-003, \$1.50/\$15), or contact the Head (613-995-1976), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Coal and Coke Statistics

Production of coal in Canada increased 26.4% in February 1981 to 3 299 267 tonnes from 2 609 774 tonnes a year earlier. Landed imports declined 48.5% to 11 201 tonnes from 21 739 tonnes.

During the first two months of 1981, production of coal totalled 6 665 569 tonnes, up 27.6% from the January-February 1980 figure of 5 222 868 tonnes.

For further information, order the February 1981 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.

Business Conditions Survey, Canadian Manufacturing Industries

Canadian manufacturers reporting to the April Business Conditions Survey expressed more optimism about production for the second quarter than they showed for the first quarter of 1981. Results showed that 41% of the weighted response expect production to be higher from April to June than it was in the January to March period. In the January survey, only 32% felt this optimism about production. The proportion expecting production to be lower decreased to 11% from the previous quarter's 22%.

New orders were reported to be rising by 34% of the weighted response, declining by 19% and little changed by 47%. In the January survey, just 23% reported rising new orders, 31% declining orders and 46% little change.

In the April survey, the backlog of unfilled orders was reported higher than normal by 18% of the weighted response, lower than normal by 19% and about normal by 64%. January's results, on the other hand, had indicated that 14% had a higher than normal backlog of unfilled orders, 32% lower than normal and 54% about normal.

In this survey, finished product inventory was reported too high by 27%, too low by 6% and about right by 67%. These results were very similar to the January figures.

Regarding production impediments, shortage of skilled labour continued to be a major problem with 11% of the weighted response citing this difficulty. However, 78% indicated no difficulties.

Among export-based industries, 42% of the weighted response to the April survey reported a rising level of new orders, 22% a declining level and 36% little change. In the January survey, only 7% of this group reported rising orders, 57% reported declining orders and 36% indicated little change.

Response from the April survey represented more than 6,800 manufacturing establishments whose shipments accounted for about 50% of all shipments in these industries in 1978. Answers were weighted by attaching to each the value of shipments reported to the 1978 Census of Manufactures.

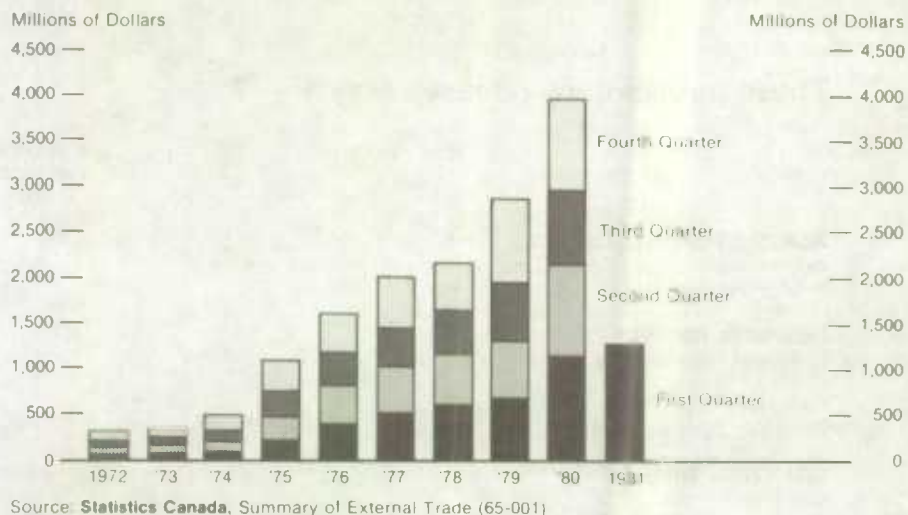
A change from the 1977 to the 1978 census values as weights has resulted in some change to the results that were previously published. Furthermore, the January 1981 results published here include some response received too late for the first release of the results from that survey.

For further information, contact T. Newton (613-996-7008), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Sugar Sales

In March 1981, Canadian sugar refineries reported total sales of 76 393 982 kilograms of all types of sugar, 75 892 876 kilograms in domestic sales and 501 106 kilograms in export sales.

Canadian Exports of Natural Gas to the United States



Labour Income

Labour income for the month of February 1981 was estimated at \$14,128.6 million, an increase of \$1,667.3 million or 13.4% from February 1980.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries increased by \$126.6 million between January and February to \$13,441.0 million.

The estimates will be published in the January-March issue of *Estimates of Labour Income* (72-005, \$5/\$20). For further information, contact Mrs. G. Gauthier (613-995-8431), Labour Income Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Trusteed Pension Funds

Preliminary estimates derived from the quarterly survey of trusteed pension funds indicate that at the end of 1980 these funds held over \$50 billion in invested assets at book value, an increase of \$8 billion from a year earlier. It is estimated that an additional \$14 billion was held under a variety of insurance company contracts to provide future benefits to private pension plan members as well. These funds are not included in this study, except for some \$900 million invested by trusteed pension fund managers in segregated funds of insurance companies as part of their total holdings.

For further information, order the fourth quarter 1980 issue of *Quarterly Estimates of Trusteed Pension Funds* (74-001, \$2.50/\$10), or contact Hubert Frenken (613-995-4476), Pensions Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Washing Machines/Clothes Dryers

Canadian production of washing machines (electric automatic) during the month of March 1981 totalled 50,399 units. Production of clothes dryers (electric automatic) amounted to 38,894 units.

For further information, order the March 1981 issue of *Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers* (43-002, \$1.50/\$15), or contact Brian Preston (613-996-3226), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Correctional Institutions Statistics, 1979

There were 4,711 admissions to federal penitentiaries in 1979 and of these, 97.3% were males and 2.7% were females. Of the total, 52.2% were being committed to penitentiary for the first time. Persons 18 to 29 years of age accounted for two-thirds of all the male and female admissions. The offences of robbery and break and enter were the most frequent major offences committed by males, and violations of the Narcotic Control Act accounted for the greatest number of female admissions.

Of the 14,558 admissions (excluding transfer admissions) to the Maritimes and Manitoba provincial adult correctional institutions in 1979, 95.0% were males and 5.0% were females. More than one-half of the males (54.2%) and females (55.2%) admitted were under the age of 25.

Admissions for offences under the Criminal Code accounted for 77.8% of the total admissions while offences under provincial Liquor Control Statutes and the Narcotic Control Act accounted for 7.8% and 5.3%, respectively.

Of the total number of persons convicted, 16.7% had an aggregate sentence of two months and less than four months, and 12.9% had an aggregate sentence of 10 to 14 days.

It should be noted that these are preliminary figures and may be subject to further adjustments and corrections. Further inquiries should be addressed to the Project Manager, Corrections Unit (613-995-0855), Justice Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Domestic Refrigerators/Freezers

Domestic production of refrigerators in March 1981 was 56,935 units. Home freezer production totalled 39,608 units.

For further information, order the March 1981 issue of *Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers* (43-001, \$1.50/\$15), or contact Brian Preston (613-996-3226), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.



1010761196

These publications released May 1 — 7

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE STATISTICS			
Apparent per Capita Food Consumption in Canada, Part I, 1980	32-229	\$4.50	\$5.40
Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry, February 1981	23-003	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
BUSINESS FINANCE			
Industrial Corporations, Financial Statistics, Fourth Quarter 1980	61-003	\$10/\$40	\$12/\$48
CANSIM			
Canadian Statistical Review, April 1981	11-003E	\$3.50/\$35	\$4.20/\$42
CONSTRUCTION			
Building Permits, 1980	64-203	\$7	\$8.40
Private and Public Investment in Canada, Outlook 1981	61-205	\$6	\$7.20
SERVICE BULLETIN			
Construction Statistics — Vol. 4, No. 3, Building Construction Activity in Metropolitan Areas, 1979-80	64-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE			
Annual Review of Science Statistics, 1980	13-212	\$6	\$7.20
EXTERNAL TRADE			
Exports by Commodities, February 1981	65-004	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
INDUSTRY PRODUCT			
Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry, January 1981	61-005	\$3/\$30	\$3.60/\$36
LABOUR			
Preliminary Unemployment Insurance Statistics, January 1981	73-001p	N/C	N/C
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES			
Agricultural Implement Industry, 1979	42-202	\$4.50	\$5.40
Boatbuilding and Repair, 1979	42-205	\$4.50	\$5.40
Coffin and Casket Industry, 1979	35-210	\$4.50	\$5.40
Factory Shipments of High Pressure Decorative Laminated Sheet, Quarter Ended March 1981	47-005	\$2.50/\$10	\$3/\$12
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation, March 1981	44-004	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Shipments of Floor Tiles, March 1981	47-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production of Selected Biscuits, Quarter Ended March 1981	32-026	\$2.50/\$10	\$3/\$12
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, February 1981	35-003	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
The Sugar Situation, March 1981	32-013	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Wooden Box Factories, 1979	35-209	\$4.50	\$5.40
MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES			
Direct Selling in Canada, 1978 and 1979	63-218	\$4.50	\$5.40
Motion Picture Theatres and Film Distributors, 1979	63-207	\$4.50	\$5.40
Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics, January 1981	63-011	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Retail Trade, February 1981	63-005	\$3.50/\$35	\$4.20/\$42
Wholesale Trade, February 1981	63-008	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
PRICES			
Industry Price Indexes, February 1981	62-011	\$3.50/\$35	\$4.20/\$42
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS			
Railway Transport: Part III — Equipment, Track and Fuel Statistics, 1979	52-209	\$4.50	\$5.40
Railway Transport: Part IV — Operating and Traffic Statistics, 1979	52-210	\$4.50	\$5.40

Canada