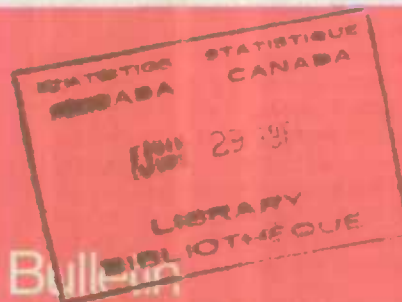


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Weekly Bulletin



June 26, 1981

## Gross National Product

Preliminary estimates indicate that Gross National Product, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, reached a level of \$314.6 billion in the first quarter of 1981. After allowing for an overall price change of 2.5%, the increase in GNP was 1.0%. The first quarter advance in real GNP was reduced in dividends paid to non-residents. Excluding international transactions in investment income, the increase in the volume of output on a domestic basis was 1.5%.

The further expansion of the economy, following a robust 2.3% gain in the fourth quarter of 1980, had its origins in a fairly widespread strengthening of domestic demand, despite rapid inflation and a record quarterly level of interest rates. In marked contrast to the first half of 1980 when output declined, these interest rates did not appear to have the same inhibiting effect on spending and borrowing levels. A substantial 5.8% drop in real merchandise exports provided more visible evidence of the dampening effects of heightened monetary restraint throughout most of the major industrialized nations. At the same time, both the economy-wide and personal expenditure quarterly indexes of inflation worsened despite an easing of price increases for many raw materials and some manufactured goods.

Expenditure on residential construction exemplified the paradox of the performance of final domestic demand in the first quarter. The 7.4% increase in real expenditure on housing can be starkly juxtaposed with the debilitating effects on market conditions of high mortgage rates in the first half of 1980, as economic agents in general thus far have adapted with unexpected ease to a period of high interest rates. The strength of the recovery in the housing sector was most evident in work-put-in-place, which recorded its largest increase in recent years.

Following a surge in the second half of 1980, net nominal exports of goods and services fell \$6 billion, as the merchandise trade surplus registered its steepest quarterly decline on record. After allowing for price changes, real net merchandise exports fell by almost \$2 billion. Sharply lower auto exports to the United States and slumping demand from overseas nations

(continued on next page)

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Mar.	343.93p	341.70p	10.9
Labour Income (\$ million)	Mar.*	14,314.0p	14,128.9p	11.0
Persons with Jobs (million)	May	11.03	10.70	3.9
Unemployed	May	854,000	886,000	-5.5

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Apr.*	3,104.4	2,626.3	13.4
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Apr.*	31,548.4p	30,728.6p	12.6
Wholesale (\$ million)	Apr.*	16,923.1p	16,799.6p	

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Apr.*	16,363.6p	16,510.2r	24.0
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Apr.*	19,894.5p	19,657.1r	4.3

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	May	233.2	231.1	12.3
Non-food Component (CPI)	May	213.9	213.1	12.2
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Apr.	132.3	130.0	13.7
22-city Composite Wage, Building (1971=100)	Jan.	253.6p	253.5r	9.7
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Apr.	267.0p	265.2r	10.7

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Mar.	1,258.8p	3,023.8p	11.9
Housing Starts -- Urban Centres (units)	Apr.	14,854	37,392	14.8

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand metric tonnes)	Mar.	3 675.7	10 341.3	25.2
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Mar.	34.7	104.0	0.5
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Feb.	8 827.7	18 561.5	-4.0
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Apr.	8.3p	35.4p	-6.4

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports -- Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Apr.	7,021p	27,066p	9.5
Imports -- Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Apr.	7,052p	25,373p	8.2

### PRODUCTION

Steel (ingots -- thousand metric tonnes)	May*	1 484.4	7 103.2	5.4
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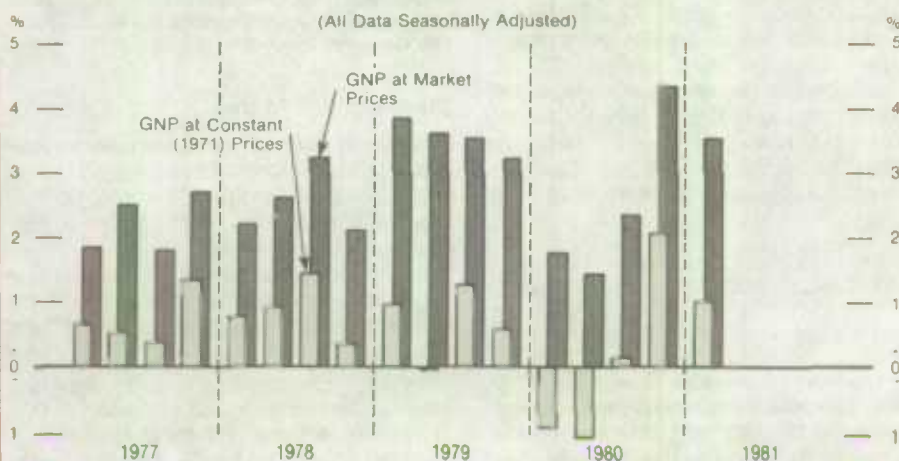
### SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	793.7	2,695.8	12.9
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Apr.*	16,126.2p	59,994.5p	12.2
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	1,312.7	4,155.4	7.8
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	7,733.5p	27,768.8p	15.1
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Apr.*	9,782.5p	34,868.5p	

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

## Canada's Gross National Product (GNP)

Quarter-to-Quarter Change



Source: Statistics Canada, National Income and Expenditure Accounts (13-001)



accounted for most of the 5.8% drop in real exports.

Final domestic demand was also supported by continued strong gains in business investment in plant and equipment, up 2.2% in volume in the quarter. A 3.6% increase in non-residential construction accounted for most of this strength. Inventories rose \$540 million in volume in the first quarter, a distinct reversal from the over \$4 billion liquidation in the second half of 1980.

Data users should note that following normal practice, data from 1977 to 1980 inclusive have been revised to incorporate the most current source data and revised seasonal patterns. The revisions are generally within historically expected ranges. For further information, order the first quarter 1981 issue of *National Income and Expenditure Accounts* (13-001, \$6/\$24).

### Residential General Building Contracting Industry, 1979

Total 1979 operating revenues of general contractors whose main activity was residential construction were \$4,369 million, a decrease of 12.9% from the 1978 level of \$5,014 million.

Further information is available from Pierre Schneider (613-995-8424), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6. Complete census data will be available in the publication *The Residential General Building Contracting Industry, 1979*, which will be released late in July.

### Non-Residential General Building Contracting Industry, 1979

Total 1979 construction revenue for general contractors whose main activity was non-residential construction was \$6,217 million, an increase of 33.4% from the 1978 level of \$4,661 million.

Further information is available from Pierre Schneider (613-995-8424), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6. Complete census data will be available in the publication *The Non-Residential General Building Contracting Industry, 1979*, which will be released late in July.

### Heavy Engineering Contracting

Construction output of firms classified as heavy engineering general contractors totalled \$3,025 million in 1979, an increase of 18.4% from the 1978 figure of \$2,554 million. Increased revenues were reported in Newfoundland (+123%), British Columbia, the Yukon and Northwest Territories (+46%), Nova Scotia (+42%), Québec (+38%), Saskatchewan (+17%) and Alberta (+15%).

Since 1975, net operating profits for the industry have steadily decreased from 5.9% nationally to 3.9% in 1978, while 1979 has shown a slight recovery to 4.0%.

For further information, order the 1979 issue of *The Heavy Engineering Contracting Industry* (64-209, \$7), or contact S. Parent (613-995-8423), Construction Census Section, Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing, by Quarter



Source: Statistics Canada, Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing (31-003)

### Provincial Government Employment

General government services in Canada's provincial and territorial governments reported gross payrolls for the first quarter of 1981 of \$1,820 million. The number of employees for the last pay period of March 1981 was 405,739.

For further information, order the January-March 1981 issue of *Provincial Government Employment* (72-007, \$5/\$20), or contact A.G. Kerr (613-995-8201), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Coal and Coke Statistics

Production of coal in Canada increased 12.2% in April 1981 to 3 473 942 metric tonnes from 3 095 564 tonnes a year earlier. Landed imports declined 30.4% to 1 201 544 tonnes from 1 725 109 tonnes.

Production of coal in Canada during the first four months of 1981 amounted to 13 815 206 tonnes, up 21.7% from the January-April 1980 figure of 11 353 121 tonnes.

For further information, order the April 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.

### Steel Ingots/Pig Iron

Preliminary estimate of steel ingots production for the month of May 1981 was 1,636,277 short tons (1 484 406 t), up from 1,558,966 short tons (1 414 270 t) a year earlier.

Pig iron production increased to 1,144,612 short tons (1 038 375 t) in the latest month from 1,094,978 short tons (993 347 t) in May 1980.

For further information, order the May 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.

### Inventories/Shipments/Orders

The seasonally adjusted value of new orders received by Canadian manufacturers was estimated at \$15,962.7 million in April 1981, up 3.8% from the revised March value of \$15,380.6 million. New orders for durable goods, led by strong increases in the iron and steel and steel pipe and tube industries, increased 4.5% to \$7,156.9 million from \$6,850.0 million, while those for non-durable goods rose 3.2% to \$8,805.8 million from \$8,530.6 million.

Manufacturers' shipments in April were estimated at \$15,779.5 million, seasonally adjusted, 2.7% higher than the revised March value of \$15,371.4 million (about 40% of the \$408 million increase reflected increased shipments in the petroleum refining industry). Durable goods shipments were up 3.2% to \$6,972.6 million from \$6,757.1 million and non-durable goods shipments increased 2.2% to \$8,806.9 million from \$8,614.3 million.

The total backlog of unfilled orders for all manufacturing, seasonally adjusted, was estimated at \$19,432.4 million in April, up 1.0% from \$19,249.2 million (revised) in March.

The seasonally adjusted value of total inventory owned by manufacturers rose 2.7% in April to \$31,060.0 million from \$30,233.0 million as revised for March. Total inventory held increased 2.7% to \$32,604.9 million from \$31,755.9 million with raw materials up 3.1%, goods in process up 2.0% and finished products up 2.7%.

The seasonally adjusted ratio of total inventory owned to shipments at the end of April was 1.97:1, the same as the revised ratio for March. The finished products to shipments ratio was 0.68:1, unchanged from the revised level of the previous month.

Not adjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in April 1981 were estimated at \$16,126.2 million, up 20.1% from \$13,427.7 million a year earlier. Shipments for the first four months of 1981 at \$59,994.5 million showed an increase of 12.2% from the January-April 1980 figure of \$53,484.5 million.

Certain preliminary series of shipments by province data in greater detail than those normally published are available on request. For further information, order the April 1981 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, \$3.50/\$35), or contact H. D. Wightman (613-996-7008), Shipments, Inventories and Orders Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Franchising in Canada

At the end of December 1980, there were an estimated 21,075 franchise locations in Canada with estimated 1980 sales of \$15,140.3 million, up from 12,299 locations with estimated sales of \$7,674.9 million in the year ending December 31, 1976.

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



### Labour Income

Labour income for the month of March 1981 was estimated at \$14,314.0 million, an increase of \$1,416.9 million or 11.0% from March 1980.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries increased by \$57.6 million between February and March 1981 to \$13,535.1 million.

The estimates will be published in the January-March 1981 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.

### Telecommunications Statistics

Telelobe Canada and CNCP Telecommunications reported combined revenues of \$99.1 million for the first quarter of 1981, up 17.0% from the year-earlier period. Operating expenses increased 29.1% to \$71.6 million. Net operating revenue declined to \$27.5 million from \$29.9 million in the first quarter of 1980.

For further information, order the *Communications Service Bulletin, Telecommunications Statistics, First Quarter 1981* (56-001, \$1.50/\$15), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

### Petroleum/Natural Gas Production

Production of crude petroleum and equivalent hydrocarbons during February 1981 amounted to 6 703 600 cubic metres, down 8% from 7 348 900 cubic metres a year earlier.

Net new production of natural gas amounted to 8 827.7 million cubic metres in the latest month, a decrease of 0.6% from 8 877.2 million cubic metres in February 1980.

For further information, order the February 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.

### Highway, Road, Street and Bridge General Contractors, 1979

Construction output of firms classified as highway, road, street and bridge general contractors totalled \$2,610 million in 1979, an increase of 17.8% from \$2,216 million in 1978. Increased revenues were reported in Newfoundland (+50.0%), New Brunswick (+40.7%), Québec (+29.3%), British Columbia, the Yukon and Northwest Territories (+24.8%), Prince Edward Island (+19.1%), Nova Scotia (+12.5%), Ontario (+11.0%), Alberta (+10.1%) and Saskatchewan (+2.7%).

Nationally, net operating profit has steadily declined from 6.0% in 1975 to 2.8% in 1979.

For further information, order the 1979 issue of *The Highway, Road, Street and Bridge General Contracting Industry* (64-206, \$6), or contact S. Parent (613-995-8423), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### New Prices

Retroactive to the start of the new fiscal year in April 1981, *Infomat* will be priced at \$25 a year in Canada, reduced from \$60, and \$30 a year outside Canada, reduced from \$72.

The *Statistics Canada Daily*, the vehicle of first release for most of the bureau's information, will be \$75 a year instead of \$120. Outside Canada, the price will be \$90 instead of \$144.

In addition, school boards, schools, colleges, universities and public libraries will receive a 30% discount on the purchase of Statistics Canada publications.

For further information regarding these price changes, contact Ellis Drover (613-996-5841), Director, User Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Passenger Car Fuel Consumption

During the first three months of 1980, it is estimated that there were 6.9 million personal-use passenger cars operated in Canada, excluding 1979 models in Quebec. (Uncontrollable circumstances made it impossible for a valid sample to be taken for these models.) The cars were driven 23 billion kilometres and consumed four billion litres of fuel. Their average litres/100 kilometres consumption was 18.2 litres. The average daily distance per vehicle was 37 kilometres and the average daily fuel consumption was 7.0 litres.

For further information on the passenger car fuel consumption survey, contact Ken Sorrenti (613-995-3034), Special Surveys Group, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6, or Dr. William F. Johnson (613-996-9731), Energy Systems Analysis and Forecasting, Transport Canada, Ottawa K1A 0N5.

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### Real Domestic Product

Preliminary estimates indicate that growth in the Canadian economy continued in April as Real Domestic Product advanced 0.6% over the March output level (this marked the 10th consecutive monthly increase). Industrial production rose 1.1% in April, matching the strong increases of February and March.

The April growth in RDP stemmed from increases in manufacturing, mining and transportation and communication services. Almost all of the rise in manufacturing was attributable to a sharp advance in one component, the automotive sector. The increase in motor vehicle and parts production coincided with a significant strengthening in exports of passenger cars and motor vehicle parts and accessories. Retail sales by new motor vehicle dealers have been increasing moderately since January. However, in contrast with the recent trend, retail sales of passenger cars and trucks produced in Canada and the U.S. increased in April, while demand for vehicles manufactured overseas declined.

Following a notable decline in March, mining output grew significantly in April, primarily because of increased production of nickel, copper, and crude petroleum. Export demand for refined nickel and copper was up sharply as well. Production of crude oil in Alberta was cut significantly at the beginning of March. However, in April, output levels were allowed to increase so that the overall reduction in the March-May period would be targetted 60,000 barrels per day.

Increased demand for air, rail, truck and pipeline transport and telephone services accounted for the growth in transportation and communication services.

During the month, the forestry industry was the most significant area of weakness, with several thousand woodworkers laid off in British Columbia's forestry operations. Production in pulp and paper mills declined as newsprint exports fell. There was also a decline in lumber exports in April.

For further information, order the April 1981 issue of *Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry (including the Index of Industrial Production)* (61-005, \$3/\$30), or contact Ron Kennedy (613-995-0568), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Index of Industrial Production

The seasonally adjusted index of industrial production (1971=100) increased by 1.1% to 138.6 in April 1981 from 137.1 in March. Increased output was recorded during the month in mining (+3.8%), utilities (+0.9%) and manufacturing (+0.7%).

For further information, order the April 1981 issue of *Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry (including the Index of Industrial Production)* (61-005, \$3/\$30), or contact Erika Molnar (613-995-0568), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.



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## These publications released June 19 — 25

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
<b>AGRICULTURE STATISTICS</b>			
Fruit and Vegetable Production, June 1981	22-003	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Grains and Oilseeds Review, April 1981	22-007	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, April 1981	62-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Stocks of Food Commodities in Cold Storage and Other Warehouses, 1980	32-217	\$4.50	\$5.40
<b>BALANCE OF PAYMENTS</b>			
Security Transactions with Non-residents, January 1981	67-002	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>			
Construction in Canada, 1979-1981	64-201	\$7	\$8.40
<b>EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE SERVICE BULLETINS</b>			
Culture Statistics, Vol. 4, No. 5, Film Industry, 1979	87-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Education Statistics, Vol. 3, No. 4, Education Price Index, Elementary-secondary Level, 1980	81-002	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
<b>EXTERNAL TRADE</b>			
Exports by Commodities, April 1981	65-004	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
Imports by Commodities, March 1981	<del>65-007</del>	<del>\$5/\$50</del>	<del>\$6/\$60</del>
<b>HOUSING AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS</b>			
Living Alone in Canada: Demographic and Economic Perspectives, 1951-1976, by Brian R. Harrison	<del>98-811</del>	<del>\$5</del>	<del>\$7.20</del>
<b>INPUT-OUTPUT</b>			
The Input-output Structure of the Canadian Economy in Constant Prices, 1971-1977	15-202E	\$8	\$9.60
<b>LABOUR</b>			
Preliminary Unemployment Insurance Statistics, March 1981	73-001p	N/C	N/C
<b>MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES</b>			
Coal and Coke Statistics, March 1981	45-002	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Construction Type Plywood, April 1981	35-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Consumption, Production and Inventories of Rubber, April 1981	33-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Dairy Products Industry, 1979	32-209	\$4.50	\$5.40
Fabricated Structural Metal Industry, 1979	41-207	\$4.50	\$5.40
Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, April 1981	43-005	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Glass and Glass Products Manufacturers, 1979	44-207	\$4.50	\$5.40
Hardware, Tool and Cultery Manufacturers, 1979	41-208	\$4.50	\$5.40
Logging, 1979	25-201	\$4.50	\$5.40
Metal Rolling, Casting and Extruding, 1979	41-215	\$4.50	\$5.40
Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, May 1981	32-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder, May 1981	32-024	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18

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