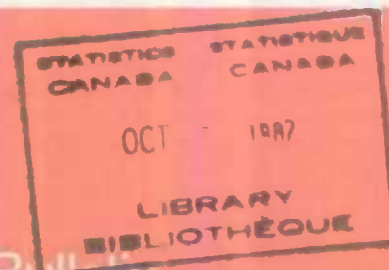


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Weekly Bulletin



October 1, 1982

## Gross Domestic Product

Preliminary estimates indicate that Gross Domestic Product, as measured in constant 1971 prices, declined 1.2% in July 1982 from the level recorded in June. Economic activity in Canada has now declined 7.8% since peaking in June 1981. About two-thirds of the July decrease in domestic output occurred in the goods-producing industries which were down 2.2% in the month, while service-producing industries dropped 0.7%. Industrial production in July fell 2.9%, the largest monthly decline posted since June of last year.

The major contributors to the Gross Domestic Product decline in July 1982 included: manufacturing (-2.5%), mining (-8.6%), wholesale trade (-3.9%), and retail trade (-1.3%). Slight declines in output were reported in agriculture, utilities, construction, and finance, insurance and real estate services.

For further information, order the July 1982 issue of *Gross Domestic Product by Industry* (61-005, \$3/\$30), or contact R. Kennedy (613-995-0568), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9.

## Income Distributions

Preliminary data from the Survey of Consumer Finances indicate that average family income in Canada rose by 8% to \$29,923 in 1981 from \$27,579 in 1980. However, when inflation during 1981 is taken into account, this represents a drop in real income of about 3.5%. Nearly one-third of all families had incomes in excess of \$35,000 in 1981.

Provincially, only Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia had average family incomes above the national average in 1981. Average family income was highest in Alberta at \$34,132 and lowest in Prince Edward Island at \$22,409. Current estimates indicate that Alberta was firmly in top position in 1981, a status enjoyed by either Ontario or British Columbia prior to 1980.

Individuals with income reported an average of \$14,259 in 1981. The differential in averages between males and females is widening — a continuation of the general trend established in the 1970s — but females still received substantially less than males: at \$9,383, the female average income was only one-half that of males (continued on next page)

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	June	389.57p	387.25p	9.3
Labour Income (\$ million)	June	16,922.3p	16,523.1p	4.9
Persons with Jobs (million)	Aug.	10.91	11.00	-5.0
Unemployed	Aug.	1,388,000	1,386,000	75.7

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	July	3,006.6	2,909.1	-1.1
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	July	33,093.5p	33,537.3r	4.7

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	July	13,939.6p	16,322.4r	-10.0
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	July	17,426.1p	17,512.2r	-10.9

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Aug.	266.1	264.8	10.6
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Aug.*	131.6	132.2	-2.5
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Aug.*	202.9p	205.2p	6.4
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Aug.*	147.8p	151.9p	-5.3
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Aug.*	290.2p	290.6p	5.1

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	July*	1,066.7p	7,195.5p	-33.0
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	July	8,065	60,970	-27.4

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	June	3,722	22,441	11.7
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	July*	26.2	220.7	—
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	June*	6,934.5	51,261.3	2.9
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	July	8.0p	51.9p	-16.0

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	July	6,882p	49,701p	1.0
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	July	5,549p	40,441p	-12.0

### PRODUCTION

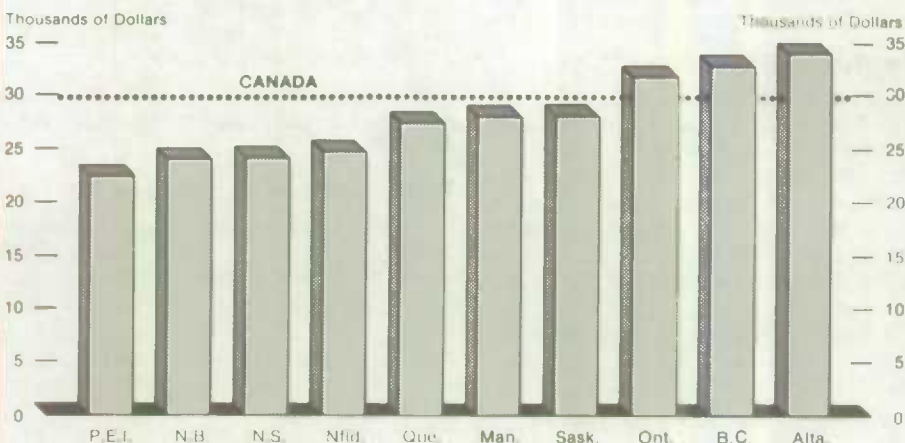
Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Aug.	14.5p	138.6p	-9.5
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	June	964.6	7,243.7	-15.5

### SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	July	759.2	5,025.2	-1.7
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	July	14,025.7p	106,207.3p	-3.4
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	July	679.4	6,056.9	-19.5
Retail Sales (\$ million)	July	8,388.4p	53,896.2p	2.7

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

## Average Family Income, \* 1981



Source: Statistics Canada, Income Distributions by Size in Canada, Preliminary Estimates (13-206)

\* Preliminary estimate — includes all money income before taxes or other deductions and does not take inflation into account.

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(\$18,519) in 1981. Over 25% of male income recipients had incomes in excess of \$25,000 compared to 5% of females.

Statistics on low income indicate that there were marginal changes in the overall incidence of low income for families and unattached individuals between 1980 and 1981. For families, the incidence moved up from 12.2% to 12.5%, due largely to the increased rate for families with younger heads (aged less than 35 years). For unattached individuals, there is evidence that the situation improved, since the incidence changed from 39.6% to 39.2%.

For further information, order *Income Distributions by Size in Canada, Preliminary Estimates, 1981* (13-206: Canada, \$4.50; Other Countries, \$5.40), or contact the Data Dissemination Unit (613-996-5294), Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Industrial Production

Preliminary estimates show industrial production in July 1982 dropped 2.9% from the June level. Output declines were recorded in mining (-8.6%), manufacturing (-2.5%) and electric power, gas and water utilities (-1.4%), with the index of industrial production (1971=100) falling to 118.1 from 121.6 in June.

For further information order the *July 1982 issue of Gross Domestic Product by Industry* (61-005, \$3/\$30).

## Railway Operating Statistics

Canada's seven major railways reported a combined net income from operations of \$27.9 million in May 1982, down 7.2% from a year earlier. Operating revenues of \$519.9 million were up 6.1% from the 1981 level.

Revenue freight tonne-kilometres were down by 0.8% in May 1982; freight train-kilometres decreased 10.4% and freight car-kilometres 6.0%. Average revenue per tonne-kilometre of freight was 2.031 cents. Revenue passenger-kilometres decreased by 25.9% to 187.6 million.

For further information, order the *May 1982 issue of Railway Operating Statistics* (52-003, \$2.50/\$25), or contact J. Bustros (613-995-1976), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

## Telephone Statistics, 1981

Canada's telephone industry continued to experience steady growth during 1981. Operating revenues rose 19.5% to \$6,987 million from \$5,848 million in 1980, while operating expenses also increased 19.5% to \$4,801 million from \$4,019 million. After-tax profits of \$663.9 million advanced 17.3% from the year-earlier level of \$565.8 million.

The number of telephones in operation at the end of 1981 was 16.9 million, up 2.5% from 16.5 million at the end of 1980.

For further information, order *Telephone Statistics, 1981* (56-203, \$6), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

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## New Housing Price Indexes

The Canada composite new housing price index (1976=100) declined 0.5% to 131.6 in August 1982 from the July level of 132.2. This marked the eighth consecutive monthly decline for the index which stood 2.5% below the year-earlier level of 135.0.

The main contributions to the overall decline in August came from Vancouver and Toronto which both posted 1.4% declines in new housing prices. Smaller drops were recorded in Calgary (-0.7%), Edmonton (-0.3%) and Victoria (-0.1%). Partly offsetting were fractionally higher prices recorded in Quebec City (+0.9%), Winnipeg (+0.5%), Montreal (+0.2%) and Ottawa-Hull (+0.1%). The remaining 12 survey cities reported no price change in August.

For further information, contact *Prices Division* (613-996-3744), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Electric Power Statistics

Net generation of electricity in Canada decreased to 26 244 gigawatt hours (million kilowatt hours) in July 1982 from 28 542 GW.h a year earlier. Exports decreased to 2 457 GW.h from 2 952 GW.h, while imports rose to 428 GW.h from 100 GW.h.

During the first seven months of 1982, domestic generation of electric power edged up fractionally to 220 663 GW.h from 219 996 GW.h in the January-July 1981 period. Exports declined to 17 189 GW.h from 19 480 GW.h, while imports rose to 2 240 GW.h from 1 007 GW.h.

For further information, order the *July 1982 issue of Electric Power Statistics* (57-001, \$2.50/\$25).

## Petroleum/Natural Gas

Canadian production of crude petroleum and equivalent hydrocarbons in June 1982 amounted to 6 805 000 cubic metres, up 7.9% from 6 306 800 cubic metres a year earlier.

Net new production of natural gas amounted to 6 934.5 million cubic metres in the latest month, down 1.4% from 7 031.2 million cubic metres in June 1981.

For further information, order the *June 1982 issue of Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, \$2.50/\$25).

## Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance benefits paid out in July 1982 totalled \$611 million, down 9% from the preceding month but more than double the July 1981 disbursement of \$298 million. Benefits for the year-to-date reached \$4.71 billion, an increase of 58% from the \$2.98 billion in January-July 1981. The average weekly benefit at \$142 was up 9% from the year-earlier period.

For the week ended July 17, claimants qualifying for benefits numbered 1,016,000, up fractionally from June. (A small reduction is usually experienced between these months, decreases for the seven previous years ranged from 1% to 7%.) The beneficiary count was 76% higher than in July 1981.

Claims submitted in July totalled 326,000 (a new high for this month), up 5% from June and 35% from a year earlier. Claims for January-July 1982 numbered 2,117,000, an increase of 42% from the same period in 1981. Claims were higher in all areas of the country, increases ranging from 5% in Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories to 87% in Alberta.

For further information, order the *July-September 1982 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.

## University Tuition Costs

Increases in tuition costs for full-time Canadian university students, from academic year 1981-82 to 1982-83, varied considerably by province, but in general were higher than the average annual increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). (It should be noted that the provincial figures shown represent averages and that actual costs and fee changes vary between institutions.)

Newfoundland and British Columbia recorded the highest average tuition fee changes. In Newfoundland, undergraduate fees increased by 37%, while graduate fees rose by 26%. In British Columbia the increases were 30% and 28%, respectively. In Quebec, all 1982-83 tuition fees remained at 1981-82 levels, as did those of graduate students in Manitoba (undergraduate fees in Manitoba increased by less than 1%). Other percentage increases for tuition fees varied from 9% (Saskatchewan undergraduate) to 20% (Alberta graduate).

Campus accommodation costs were up in all provinces in 1982-83. Except in Newfoundland and Saskatchewan, the average cost for this service increased more than the average annual increase in the CPI. These living expenses are lowest in Newfoundland (\$1,800), and in the other provinces range from \$2,300 (Saskatchewan and New Brunswick) to \$2,900 (Quebec).

For further information, order the *1982-83 issue of Tuition and Living Accommodation Costs at Canadian Universities* (81-219, \$4.50), scheduled for release in November.



## Building Permits

The value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities, spurred by a \$160 million Bell Canada office tower planned for Montreal, rose 20.1% to \$1,060.0 million, seasonally adjusted, in July 1982 from a revised \$882.5 million in June. However, the July figure still showed a drop of 37.5% from the year-earlier level of \$1,696.0 million.

Residential building permits rose 7.3% from a seven-year low of \$385.7 million in June to a seasonally adjusted level of \$414.0 million in July. The increase was concentrated entirely in permits for multiple dwellings which rose to 4,580 units from 3,394 in June. However, the number of single-detached homes authorized — 3,364 compared to 3,458 in June — remained in the same range as during the previous six months, suggesting that government incentive programs have not as yet had a significant impact.

Non-residential building permits value rose 30.0% to a seasonally adjusted \$646.0 million in July from \$496.8 million in June. Permits for new industrial developments rose 27.5% to \$85.5 million from \$67.1 million in June; commercial projects were up 39.6% to \$406.7 million (\$291.4 million) and publicly-initiated projects 11.2% to \$153.7 million (\$138.3 million). Increases in non-residential construction projects were concentrated in Quebec (Bell Canada project) and Alberta (two office buildings totalling \$7.4 million).

Partial returns for August provide encouraging signs of increased activity in the residential sector, for both single-detached and multiple dwellings, particularly in Quebec and Ontario.

For further information, order the July 1982 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$3.50/\$35), or contact J.P. Delisle (613-995-8213), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9.

## Direct Selling in Canada

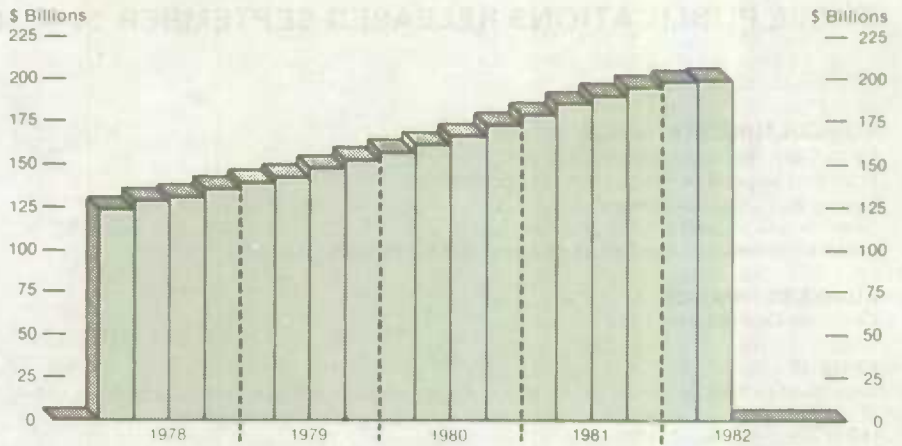
Direct selling by specialized direct-sellers, manufacturers and primary producers to household consumers in Canada climbed 21.8% in 1981 to \$2,654.2 million from the 1980 level of \$2,178.9 million. In 1979, direct sales totalled \$1,893.0 million.

The personal selling method of distribution — sales to a group of people at house parties or to individuals at their homes through person-to-person contacts — accounted for 28.5% (\$756.9 million) of 1981 direct sales; home delivery (door-to-door canvassing) accounted for 23.0% (\$609.3 million); mail order sales, 21.5% (\$571.1 million); counter sales at manufacturing premises, 21.5% (\$570.1 million); direct sales through other channels, 5.5% (\$145.8 million).

Further details will be published in *Direct Selling in Canada, 1981* (63-218, \$4.50). Additional advance information is available from the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

## Wages, Salaries and Supplementary Labour Income

Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



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

## Industry Selling Price Index

The Industry Selling Price Index for manufacturing (1971=100) declined 0.1% in August 1982 to a preliminary level of 290.2 from a revised 290.6 in July. The year-over-year rise of 5.1% is the lowest recorded since December 1976.

The wood industries component index dropped 1.8% in August to a level 5.0% lower than a year earlier. This marks the twelfth consecutive month that wood prices have been lower than a year earlier. Largely responsible for the monthly decline was a 3.0% fall in the price index for sawmills and planing mills, reflecting price decreases for softwoods, most notably spruce and hemlock.

The primary metals price index registered a 0.8% decline in August and stood 1.2% lower than the level of 12 months earlier. The main contribution to the monthly movement came from the smelting and refining industry which posted a drop of 2.0%; precious metals prices, down 4.0% in August, dominated the downward movement, but other non-ferrous metals also showed substantial decreases reflecting both a weak market and a 1.2% drop in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to the Canadian dollar.

The food and beverage price index was down 0.1% in August, and showed a year-over-year increase of 5.6%. The slaughtering and meat processors index decreased 0.7% reflecting decreases in beef prices which have now dropped back to year-earlier levels; in addition, fish product prices dropped 1.2% and sugar prices fell 8.4% to a level 27.0% below that of August 1981. Offsetting these declines were: strong increases in pork prices which now stand 20.3% higher than August 1981; poultry prices, up 2.1% as increases for chickens were partly offset by slight declines for turkeys; and dairy product prices, up 1.6%, reflecting increases for skim milk powder and creamery butter.

For further information, order the August 1982 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.

## Raw Materials Price Index

The Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100) fell 1.1% to 202.9 in August 1982 from 205.2 (revised) in July but was up 6.4% from the year-earlier level of 190.7. The raw materials price index excluding coal, crude oil and natural gas fell 2.7% in August to stand 5.3% lower than in August 1981; this marks the twelfth consecutive month in which this index has registered a year-to-year decline.

The main contributor to the overall August decrease was the index for vegetable products which fell 9.4% to a level 16.6% below that of a year earlier; prices for all major commodities within this group decreased, with the 9% decline for grains having the largest impact (Grain prices in Canada, already depressed following the 1981 harvest, declined a further 15% after this year's harvest.) Other notable declines were recorded for the oil and seeds index (-12%), raw sugar (-18%) and fresh vegetables (-17%); prices for all these commodities, as well as those for natural rubber, are now down by more than 10% from August 1981.

The index for animals and animal products declined 1.8% in August, mainly due to lower prices for beef cattle and calves (-6%), and to a lesser extent, for sheep and lambs. Higher prices for hogs (+3%), and milk (+1%) only partly offset the impact of these decreases. On a year-over-year basis, the group index was up 3.3%, with higher prices for hogs (+24%) and milk (+6%) only partly offset by lower prices for cattle and calves (-3%).

The non-ferrous metals index decreased 2.7% in August, reflecting price declines for almost all metals. Compared to a year earlier, the group index is now 16.3% lower; prices of copper, tin, zinc, gold, as well as non-ferrous scrap, have all declined from 15%-25%.

## THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED SEPTEMBER 24 — 30

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