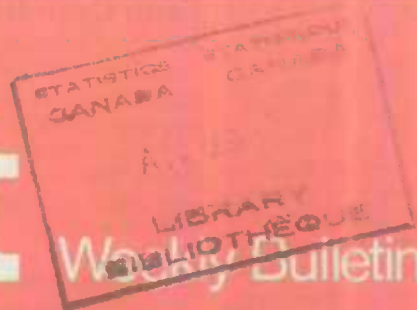




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April 16, 1982

Labour Force Survey

Canada's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to a record level of 9.0% in March 1982 from 8.6% in February. The participation rate edged up to 64.0% from 63.8%, while the employment/population ratio decreased to 58.2% from 58.3% in the preceding month.

For the week ending March 20, 1982, the seasonally adjusted level of employment was 10,766,000, down very slightly (-7,000) from February. This marked the first month since last September that the level has not declined significantly.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment was estimated at 1,069,000 in March, up 59,000 from February. Unemployment increased in all provinces except Newfoundland, with the largest rises occurring in Quebec (+29,000), British Columbia (+9,000) and Alberta (+6,000).

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the provinces in March 1982 were as follows, with February rates in brackets: Newfoundland, 14.2% (14.7%); Prince Edward Island, 12.6% (11.1%); Nova Scotia, 12.5% (11.8%); New Brunswick, 13.5% (13.0%); Quebec, 12.2% (11.4%); Ontario, 7.7% (7.6%); Manitoba, 7.0% (6.4%); Saskatchewan, 4.8% (4.5%); Alberta, 5.0% (4.5%); and British Columbia, 9.3% (8.7%).

The unadjusted employment level for Canada was estimated at 10,459,000 in March 1982, down 166,000 (1.6%) from a year earlier. Unemployment climbed 24.9% to 1,228,000 from 983,000 over the 12-month period. The unemployment rate at 10.5% was up from 8.5% in March 1981. The participation rate was 63.2% compared to 63.7% a year earlier and the employment/population ratio was down to 56.6% from 58.3%.

For further information, order the March 1982 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, \$3.50/\$35).

Canadian Leading Indicator

The few signs of recovery transmitted by the leading indicator (1971=100) in December practically vanished in January 1982, suggesting that the short-term perspective for the economy remains unencouraging. All of the component indicators weakened this month except for residential construction. The filtered index declined by 2.42% to 121.73 from 124.74, after a drop of

(continued on next page)

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Jan.*	373.64p	363.17p	10.1
Labour Income (\$ million)	Jan.*	15,609.4p	15,673.2p	11.3
Persons with Jobs (million)	Mar.*	10.46	10.41	-1.6
Unemployed	Mar.*	1,228,000	1,116,000	24.9

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Jan.	2,685.0	2,842.3	15.7
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Jan.	33,571.7p	33,308.4r	13.4

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Jan.	14,081.1p	14,754.3r	-0.8
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Jan.	18,491.7p	18,266.8r	-1.8

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Feb.	252.7	249.7	11.6
Non-food Component (CPI)	Feb.	236.0	233.8	13.2
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Feb.*	135.4	135.6	5.7
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Feb.	196.4p	193.0p	12.9
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Feb.	282.8p	281.4p	7.2

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec.	1,995.3p	18,757.7p	21.4
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb.*	8,444	18,928	27.9

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Jan.*	3,594.8	3,594.8	5.9
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Dec.	36.0	377.6	3.0
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Dec.	9,876.6	97,833.1	-0.9
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Jan.	8.3p	8.3p	-12.2

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Feb.*	6,633p	12,675p	-2.4
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Feb.*	5,667p	10,509p	-11.1

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Feb.	16.5	31.4	-11.9
Steel Ingots — thousand tonnes	Feb.	1,202.1	2,410.0	-10.7

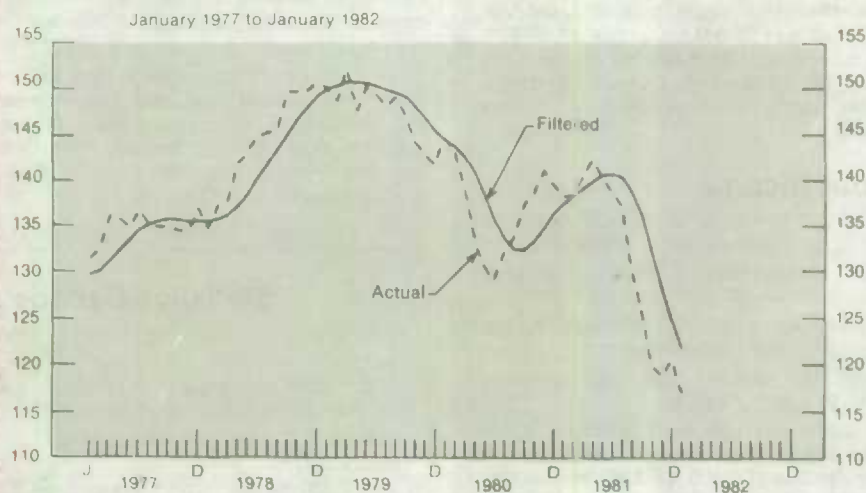
SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb.*	577.9	1,178.0	-2.9
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Jan.	13,856.2p	13,856.2p	1.3
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.*	747.0	1,330.6	-18.3
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	6,784.9p	6,784.9p	1.7

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

p - preliminary. r - revised. * - new this week.

The Canadian Composite Leading Index (1971=100)



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

2.62% in December. The index level last June, the month before the recession began, was at 140.34. The non-filtered index dropped 2.9%, after a downward revised 1.5% gain in December. The non-filtered index moved to 116.9 from 120.4.

The accentuation of recessionary forces in the economy is most readily attributable to a further retrenchment in consumer demand for automobiles and to a developing cutback in investment spending by business firms. The renewed weakness in final demand has compounded the difficulties in controlling inventories, and increases in stocks of finished goods at the manufacturing level augurs for further cutbacks in orders, production and employment. Total inventories at the manufacturing level declined marginally due to reductions in stocks of raw materials, which is consistent with the signals in the employment and orders data of an ongoing cutback in production in the first quarter. The further erosion of financial market conditions in February and March, as indicated by rising short-term interest rates and falling asset prices, offers little encouragement for a quick reversal to the slide of economic activity.

Inflation had moderated in recent months as firms restrained price increases mainly in order to liquidate inventories. There was an upturn in inflation in February, however, as the recent slowdown has not in itself been sufficient to insulate the aggregate measures of inflation from the transitory effects of supply shocks in the food component. The prospect of additional energy price increases over the next year, and the steady gains in labour costs, raise doubts about the ability of the Canadian economy to track the recent slowing of inflation in the United States in the near term. The nose-dive of activity in the automobile industry was the most visible example of recession-induced price restraint, as list prices and some input prices were reduced. The Canadian auto workers showed little inclination to follow their counterparts in the United States in attempts at contract renegotiation.

For further information, order *Current Economic Analysis* (13-004E, Canada: \$2.50/\$25; other countries: \$3/\$30), or contact D. Rhoades (613-992-4441), *Current Economic Analysis Staff*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Labour Income

Labour income for January 1982 was estimated at \$15,609.4 million, an increase of \$1,578.8 million or 11.3% from a year earlier.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries increased by \$24.8 million between December 1981 and January 1982 to \$14,862.2 million.

The estimates will be published in the January-March 1982 issue of *Estimates of Labour Income* (72-005, \$5/\$20). For further information, contact G. Gauthier (613-995-8431), *Labour Income Section*, Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Farm Cash Receipts

Farm cash receipts for the January-February 1982 period are estimated at \$3,650.5 million, down 1% from the year-earlier level of \$3,681.1 million.

Receipts from the sale of field crops showed a 1% decrease to \$2,248.0 million, reflecting lower receipts for potatoes, corn, soybeans and wheat payments. Partly offsetting was the large level of deferred grain receipts which were liquidated in 1982.

Cash receipts from livestock sales were down 1% from January-February 1981 levels with lower cattle prices contributing to the decrease.

Estimated cash receipts include: receipts from the sale of farm products; Canadian Wheat Board participation payments; cash advances paid on farm-stored commodities; and deficiency payments made by the Agricultural Stabilization Board. No allowance has been made for the cost incurred by farmers in the production of the commodities sold.

For further information, order the January-February 1982 issue of *Farm Cash Receipts* (21-001, \$1.50/\$15), or contact Peter Lys (613-995-4895), *Agriculture Statistics Division*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Farm Product Prices

The Canada index number of farm prices of agricultural products (1971=100) increased 0.9% in February 1982 to 280.2 from 277.8 in January, but still stood 3.6% lower than the February 1981 level of 290.2.

The index, which measures — as closely as can be determined — prices received by producers at the farm gate, is available on CAN-SIM (matrix 176) or in the publication *Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products* (62-003, \$1.50/\$15). Sub-indexes for livestock, crops and their components and further information are available from Ed Hamilton (613-995-4895), *Farm Income and Prices Section*, Agriculture Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Coal/Coke Statistics

Production of coal in Canada rose 5.9% to 3 594 781 tonnes in January 1982 from 3 394 462 tonnes a year earlier. Landed imports dropped 22.6% to 8 109 tonnes from 10 473 tonnes in January 1981.

For further information, order the January 1982 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.

Canada's Merchandise Trade

On a seasonally adjusted balance-of-payments basis, preliminary results indicate that Canada's exports increased 9.5% or \$630 million to \$7.00 billion in February 1982 following an 8.6% decline in January. Imports increased 17.9% or \$918 million to \$6.05 billion in February after a 17.4% decline in January. The merchandise trade surplus was down \$288 million to \$951 million in February 1982 from \$1,239 million in January.

Commodity Analysis

On a customs basis, for seasonally adjusted domestic exports all the major sections showed increases in February 1982. The largest increases in value were for motor vehicle products (up 42% or \$390 million to \$1,310 million following a \$90 million decrease in January), wheat (up 78% or \$160 million to \$365 million after a \$110 million decrease in January) and iron ores and concentrates (up 76% or \$85 million to \$200 million following a \$30 million increase in January).

There were widespread increases in imports for February 1982. The largest increases were for motor vehicle parts (up 50% or \$255 million to \$765 million following a \$155 million decline in January), crude petroleum (up 49% or \$220 million to \$675 million after a \$235 million decline in January), and aircraft (up 118% or \$100 million to \$185 million following a \$160 million decline in January).

For further information, order the February 1982 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, \$3/\$30), or contact Gordon Blaney (613-995-6305), *Trade Inquiries Unit*, Pierre Pichette or Henry Glouchkow (613-995-6115), *Trade Measures and Analysis Section*, External Trade Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Railway Carloadings

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada in February 1982 totalled 18.1 million short tons (16.4 million t), a drop of 9.1% from the year-earlier level. The carriers received an additional 1.3 million short tons (1.1 million t) from the United States, down 24.9% from February 1981.

Loadings of grain (other than wheat) jumped 46.6% in the latest month and wheat was up 9.5%.

Total rail freight loadings in Canada during January-February 1982 showed a decrease of 12.6% from the 1981 period while receipts from U.S. connections decreased by 24.2%.

Statistics Canada Annual Report, 1980-81

Released recently is the report of the Chief Statistician of Canada, covering operations and services during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1981.

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, socio-economic statistics, the census, research and development, and user/respondent services and liaison.

A copy of the report (catalogue 11-201) may be obtained free of charge from Publication Sales and Service, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V7.

New Motor Vehicle Sales

New motor vehicles sold in February 1982 totalled 67,804 units, down 24.2% from a year earlier. This included 35,010 passenger cars (down 29.1%) and 14,386 commercial vehicles (down 23.9%) manufactured in Canada and the United States, and 15,427 passenger cars (down 17.7%) and 2,981 commercial vehicles (up 27.4%) manufactured overseas. Of all the new passenger cars sold in Canada in February 1982, 69.4% were produced in North America, 25.2% in Japan and 5.4% in Europe, while for February 1981, the percentages were 72.5%, 20.8% and 6.7%, respectively.

Total sales value decreased 12.8% to \$747.0 million. Canadian and U.S. passenger cars sold for \$358.3 million (down 19.6%) and commercial vehicles for \$216.1 million (down 8.7%). Sales of passenger cars from overseas decreased 6.3% to \$145.4 million while those of commercial vehicles increased 44.3% to \$27.2 million. Included in total commercial vehicles sold were 234 coaches and buses valued at \$14.1 million.

For the first two months of 1982, total sales were 120,330 units (171,216 in 1981), with an accumulated value of \$1,330.6 million. This represented a decrease of 18.3% in value from sales for January-February 1981.

For further information, order the February 1982 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.

Employment/Earnings

First estimates show the Canada industrial composite index of employment (1961=100) declined 0.3% to 153.8 in January 1982 from 154.2 in December. Lower employment levels were registered in mining (including milling), manufacturing and service, while the remaining industry divisions showed employment gains or were unchanged from the preceding month. Losses were registered in all regions of the country except Quebec.

Average weekly earnings at the national industrial level advanced by 0.8% to \$374.39 in January from \$371.26 in December. Weekly earnings were higher in all industry divisions except forestry, construction and transportation, communications and other utilities. All regions contributed to the overall advance.

Average weekly hours increased in January in mining (including milling) and manufacturing but decreased in construction. Average hourly earnings were higher in all three industry divisions.

Detailed information for November and December will be published in the January 1982 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.

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Restaurant Statistics

Preliminary estimates show restaurants, caterers and taverns in Canada had sales totalling \$674.4 million in January 1982. Final estimates for December 1981 place total sales at \$721.4 million.

For further information on sales of chains versus independents and provincial sales by kind of business, order the January 1982 issue of *Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics* (63-011, \$1.50/\$15).

Wholesale Trade

Sales by Canadian wholesale merchants for January 1982 decreased by 2.5% from January 1981. Seven provinces recorded lower sales, declines ranging from -0.1% for Manitoba to -14.1% for Nova Scotia. The largest sales increase was in Prince Edward Island (+9.9%).

Wholesale inventories in January 1982 showed an increase of 11.5% over January of last year.

For further information, order the January 1982 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$1.50/\$15), or contact the Wholesale Trade Section (613-996-9307), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

Oil Pipeline Transport

Net receipts of crude oil, condensates, pentanes plus, liquefied petroleum gases and petroleum products through Canadian oil pipelines during January 1982 totalled 12 275 611 cubic metres, down 7.7% from 13 302 014 cubic metres in January 1981.

For further information, order the January 1982 issue of *Oil Pipeline Transport* (55-001, \$2.50/\$25).

Department Store Sales

Department store sales in February 1982 totalled \$577.9 million, up 1.6% from a year earlier. Sales showed a mixed pattern across Canada, ranging from an increase of 5.9% in Ontario to a decline of 3.2% in British Columbia.

Department store sales by regions for the latest month were as follows, with percentage changes from February 1981 in brackets:

- Ontario, \$204.7 million (+5.9%)
- British Columbia, \$107.7 million (-3.2%)
- Quebec, \$98.4 million (-2.4%)
- Alberta, \$89.5 million (+4.0%)
- Atlantic provinces, \$32.1 million (-1.9%)
- Manitoba, \$29.5 million (+3.4%)
- Saskatchewan, \$16.0 million (-1.5%).

Data users should note that figures for the Yukon and Northwest Territories are included with British Columbia. See the February 1982 issue of *Department Store Sales by Regions* (63-004, \$1.50/\$15).

Radio Broadcasting

Gross national AM and FM radio air-time sales were \$8.5 million in December, up 12.1% from \$7.6 million in December 1980. Net national sales after deduction of agency and other commissions amounted to \$7.3 million, up 12.9% from \$6.4 million in the previous year.

Net local air-time sales were up 10.6% to \$31.1 million in December from \$28.1 million.

Gross radio air-time sales for January-December 1981 were \$465.6 million, up 12.7% from \$413.0 million during the 1980 period. Net sales rose 12.8% to \$435.1 million from \$385.9 million.

For further information, order the December 1981 issue of *Radio Broadcasting* (56-003, \$1.50/\$15).

Telecommunications

Telelobe Canada and CNCP Telecommunications reported revenues of \$117.0 million for the fourth quarter of 1981, up 19.7% from the year-earlier period. Operating expenses increased 22.0% to \$75.5 million. Net operating revenue at \$41.4 million in the latest period was up from \$35.8 million in the fourth quarter of 1980.

For further information, order the Communications Service Bulletin, *Telecommunications Statistics, Fourth Quarter 1981* (56-001, \$1.50/\$15).

Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics, 1980

Now available is *Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics*, 1980 (13-567, \$8), the latest in the series of biennial publications on income, facilities and equipment of private households in Canada. Estimates are based on a sample of approximately 35,000 households surveyed in the spring of 1980. (Income data refer to the year 1979.) The presence or absence of specific facilities and equipment is featured in the context of household income level. Statistics are also provided on household and dwelling characteristics.

Enquiries should be directed to the Data Dissemination Unit (613-996-5294), Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.



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36-002	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
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