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Weekly Bulletin

May 7, 1982

## Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance benefits paid out in February 1982 reached an all-time high of \$647 million. Benefits were up 3% from January and were also 36% higher than the February 1981 total of \$476 million.

Persons qualifying for unemployment insurance benefits for the week ending February 20 numbered 1,114,000, the highest level since beneficiary statistics were first compiled in mid-1975. The beneficiary count was up 6% from the preceding month and 26% from a year earlier.

Applications for benefits in February totalled 257,000, a new high for this month, although down 33% from January (there is usually a substantial decline between these two months). Claims rose 25% from February 1981, the largest year-over-year February increase since 1975.

For further information, order the January-March 1982 issue of *Statistical 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.

## New Housing Price Index

The Canada composite new housing price index (1976=100) edged down 0.1% to 135.2 in March 1982 from 135.4 in February, but was still up 4.0% from a year earlier.

Prices of new houses climbed 2.5% in Winnipeg in March and increased fractionally in Montreal (+0.4%), Ottawa-Hull (+0.4%) and Calgary (+0.1%).

However, new housing prices continued to decline in Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton and Saskatoon. A 2.6% drop in Vancouver in March placed the index for this city below the national average for the first time since August 1980.

For further information, contact the Prices Division (613-996-3744), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

## Income After Tax, 1979

As estimated by the Survey of Consumer Finances in 1979, families retained \$20,554 of their \$24,245 total money income after paying \$3,691 in income taxes. For unattached individuals, the corresponding figures were \$8,891 after and \$10,375 (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)	Feb.	2,618.1	2,685.0	3.5
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb.	34,270.0p	33,696.2r	14.1

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	14,448.9p	13,870.1r	-2.5
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	18,277.4p	18,462.9r	-5.4

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Mar.	255.9	252.7	11.6
Non-food Component (CPI)	Mar.	239.3	236.0	13.0
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Mar.*	135.2	135.4	4.0
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Mar.*	196.5p	196.3p	11.8
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Mar.*	284.0p	283.1p	7.0

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Jan.	662.8p	662.8p	-11.7
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb.	8,444	18,928	27.9

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Feb.*	3 305.8	6 900.6	2.8
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Jan.	39.7	39.7	8.2
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Dec.	9 876.6	97 833.1	-0.9
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Feb.	7.0p	15.3p	-15.5

### 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)	Mar.*	19.0	50.4	-9.5
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Mar.	1 246.3	3 654.3	-12.5

### SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	577.9	1,178.0	-2.9
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.	14,634.5p	28,308.5p	1.1
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	747.0	1,330.6	-18.3
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	6,550.7p	13,192.2p	1.9

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

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

## Average Weekly Earnings in Canadian Industry

January 1982\*

Industry Division

Mining .....	\$585.11
Construction .....	\$529.72
Forestry .....	\$485.95
Transportation, Communication and other Utilities .....	\$452.98
Manufacturing .....	\$409.43
<b>INDUSTRIAL COMPOSITE</b> .....	<b>\$373.64</b>
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate .....	\$366.50
Trade .....	\$271.62
Service .....	\$250.05

Source: Statistics Canada, Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002)

\* First Estimates



before taxes with an estimated \$1,483 paid in income taxes.

For further information, order *Income After Tax, Distributions by Size in Canada, 1979* (13-210, Canada: \$7; Other Countries: \$8.40), or contact the Data Dissemination Unit (613-996-5294), Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Value of Farm Lands

Preliminary indications are that farmland values in Canada rose about 7% in 1981. Farmland values increased fairly evenly across the country: Prince Edward Island, up 10%; New Brunswick, up 16%; Quebec, up 5%; Ontario, up 10%; Manitoba, up 10%; Saskatchewan, up 10%; British Columbia, up 10%; Nova Scotia and Alberta, unchanged from the preceding year.

The 1980 final and 1981 preliminary estimates are based upon Farm Credit Corporation farm appraisals, while for the period ending in 1979, the estimates were obtained through a survey conducted by mail. For further information, contact Steven Danford (613-995-4895), Agriculture Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Petroleum/Natural Gas

Canadian production of crude petroleum and equivalent hydrocarbons during January 1982 amounted to 6 596 000 cubic metres, down 11.1% from 7 422 500 cubic metres a year earlier.

Net new production of natural gas amounted to 10 573.7 million cubic metres in the latest month, an increase of 8.8% from the 9 720.7 million cubic metres in January 1981.

For further information, order the January 1982 issue of *Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, \$2.50/\$25), or contact R. Godin (613-996-3139), Energy Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Railway Operating Statistics

The seven major Canadian railways reported a combined net income from operations of \$40.4 million in November 1981, down 2.7% from a year earlier. Operating revenues of \$486.5 million were up 10.5% from the 1980 level.

Revenue freight ton-miles were down by 2.4% in November 1981; freight train-miles showed a decrease of 6.4%; and freight car-miles decreased 5.3%. Average revenue per ton-mile of freight was 2.835 cents, up from 2.568 cents in November 1980. Revenue passenger-miles increased by 2.9% to 103.9 million.

For further information, order the November 1981 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.

## Publications

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## Coal/Coke Statistics

Production of coal in Canada dropped 0.4% to 3 305 836 tonnes in February 1982 from 3 316 112 tonnes a year earlier. Landed imports rose 9.1% to 12 220 tonnes from 11 201 tonnes.

Coal production for the first two months of 1982 totalled 6 900 617 tonnes, up 2.8% from 6 710 574 tonnes in the January-February 1981 period.

For further information, order the February 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.

## Export/Import Indexes

Both domestic export and import prices continued to climb in February 1982. On a fixed weight basis, export prices increased 1.9% and import prices 1.2% following January increases of 0.6% for exports and 0.7% for imports. The rise in the export price index was mainly attributable to strengthening prices for wheat and barley as well as continuing price increases for crude petroleum. The increase in the import price index mostly reflected higher food and end product prices.

On a current weight basis, the domestic export price index decreased 4.0% in February following a January increase of 4.3%. The import price index increased 3.0% in February after a January decrease of 1.8%.

Seasonally adjusted volume indexes for domestic exports and imports increased in February following January decreases. The seasonally adjusted volume index for domestic exports increased in all sectors, measuring a total rise of 17.5% following a January decrease of 11.3%. February import volumes rose 15.6% after a January decrease of 16.4%.

For further information, order the March 1982 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, \$3/\$30), or contact Leslie Viczian or Peter Wang (613-995-6115), International Trade Indexes Unit, External Trade Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z9.

## Raw Materials Price Index

Preliminary data show the Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100) edged up 0.1% to 196.5 in March 1982 from 196.3 in February and stood 11.8% higher than the March 1981 level of 175.7. The raw materials price index excluding coal, crude oil and natural gas declined 0.7% in March and has fallen by 4.0% over the past year.

The coal, crude oil and natural gas component increased 0.9% in March largely due to an 8% jump in natural gas prices. This index has climbed by 30.0% since March 1981, mainly reflecting sharply higher prices for crude oil (+37%) and natural gas (+31%).

Higher prices for calves and cattle (+1%) and hogs (+6%), along with an increase in fish prices (+6%), were the major factors in a 1.5% rise in the animals and animal products index during the month.

The non-ferrous metals index — down by 18.1% since March 1981 — posted a 6.8% drop, mainly due to marked declines in the prices of gold (-17%) and silver (-19%). Copper prices dropped 3% during the month, resuming a downward trend which started in August 1981.

The vegetable products index decreased 3.1% in March, primarily because of a 19% drop in raw sugar prices and a 2% decline for cereals and fresh vegetables. On an annual basis, lower prices for these products (raw sugar down by 46%, cereals by 17% and fresh vegetables by 21%) were also the dominant factor in the 16.9% decrease in this index since March 1981.

For further information, order the March 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.

## The Dairy Review

Milk sold from Canadian farms for all purposes in February 1982 totalled an estimated 510 695 kilolitres, 5.4% more than in February 1981. This brought the total estimate of milk sold from farms during the first two months of 1982 to 1 057 196 kilolitres, an increase of 5.3% over the January-February 1981 period.

For further information, order the March 1982 issue of *The Dairy Review* (23-001, \$2.50/\$25), or contact E. Leckie (613-995-4853), Agriculture Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Urban Transit

Canadian urban transit systems (59) collected 125,196,126 initial passenger fares in March 1982. The total distance run was 61 847 088 kilometres and operating revenues amounted to \$70.0 million.

For further information, order the March 1982 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.



## Industry Selling Price Index

The Industry Selling Price Index for manufacturing (1971=100) reached a preliminary level of 284.0 in March 1982, up 0.3% from the revised February index of 283.1. The 12-month rise between March 1981 and March 1982 of 7.0% continued the trend of moderating year-to-year price increases which began in mid-1981.

A 3.1% price increase in the petroleum and coal products industries index in March reflected the delayed impact of the January 1, 1982 increase in the wellhead price of domestic crude oil. The index stood 16.9% higher than a year earlier.

Higher prices for newsprint was the prime reason for the 1.6% monthly increase in pulp and paper mills, which accounted for most of a 1.3% rise in the paper and allied industries major group.

The food and beverage industries group was up 0.2% in March, largely because of higher prices for beef (up 1.7%) and pork (up 4.5%). Partly offsetting were price decreases for poultry processors (-2.5%) and cane and beet sugar processors (-7.8%). The major group index stood 4.8% higher than a year earlier.

The primary metal industries major group index was down 1.5% in March, mainly due to the 4.2% drop in the smelting and refining industry index. While a 16.3% decline for precious metals was responsible for most of the decrease in March, lower prices for refined copper (-3.7%) also contributed.

Lower prices in the jewellery and silverware industry (-8.7%), primarily due to the lower prices for precious metals, accounted for the 3.1% drop in March for the miscellaneous manufacturing major group.

For further information, order the *March 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.

## Provincial Governments

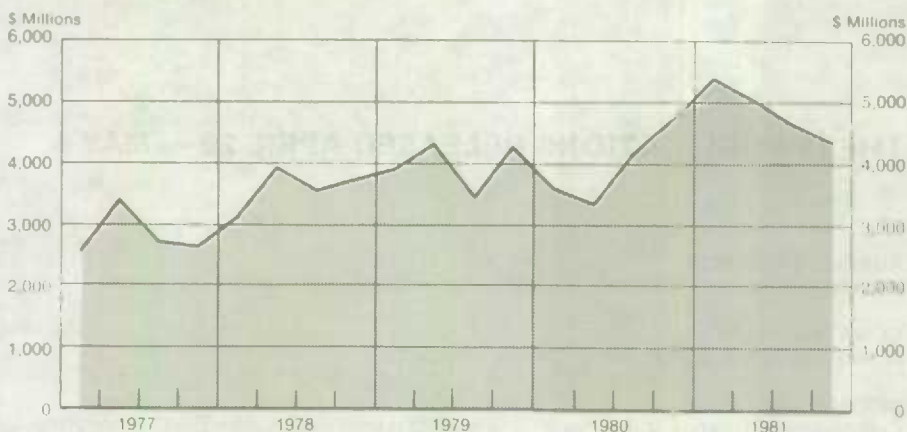
Gross general revenue of all provincial and territorial governments was \$56.3 billion for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1980, an increase of 13.6% over the previous year. This increase was consistent with those recorded in 1978-79 (13.5%) and 1977-78 (13.6%). Gross general expenditures at \$55.2 billion in 1979-80 represented a rise of 13.8% over the previous year, a significantly higher growth rate than those recorded in 1978-79 (11.4%) and 1977-78 (11.8%).

Among individual revenue sources, natural resources provided the largest increase (23.7%) due to higher revenues derived from oil and natural gas (up 18%) and forestry (up 86.2%).

For further information, order *Provincial Government Finance, Revenue and Expenditure, 1979-80* (68-207, \$8), or contact R. Sauvé (613-995-8201), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Accrued Net Income of Farm Operators from Farm Production

Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



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

## Restaurant Statistics

Preliminary estimates for February 1982 show restaurants, caterers and taverns in Canada had total sales of \$673.0 million. Final estimates for January 1982 indicate sales of \$669.0 million.

For further information on sales of chains versus independents and provincial sales by kind of business, order the February 1982 issue of *Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics* (63-011, \$1.50/\$15), or contact R. Bennett (613-996-9301), Services Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Building Permits

Canadian municipalities issued building permits valued at an estimated \$1,227.1 million, seasonally adjusted, in February 1982, down 11.2% from the January level of \$1,382.3 million and 22.2% lower than the February 1981 figure of \$1,576.8 million. This decline was entirely attributable to continuing weakness in the residential construction sector.

During February, the value of new residential construction was estimated at a seasonally adjusted \$496.2 million, down 24.5% from the revised January level of \$657.5 million. Builders received approval for the construction of 9,274 new dwellings (4,089 singles and 5,185 multiples) compared to 11,814 units in January (3,393 singles and 8,421 multiples).

Non-residential permits were issued in February for \$730.9 million worth of construction, little changed from the \$727.8 million in January. New industrial projects had an estimated value of \$133.0 million, up from \$103.3 million in January. Commercial developments rose to \$503.0 million in February from \$439.7 million with growth concentrated in the Toronto and Calgary areas. However, publicly-initiated projects were down to \$94.9 million from \$184.8 million in January.

Indicators for March, combined with the poor performance of residential permits in

February, suggest that housing starts are likely to drop sharply in the second quarter from the first quarter 1982 rate of 177,000 units.

For further information, order the February 1982 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$3.50/\$35), or contact J.P. Delisle (613-995-8213), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Key Economic Series

Key Economic Series data for May 1982 are expected to be released according to the following schedule. Under certain circumstances peculiar to each series, the release date might be changed.

**Labour Income**, February 1982, to be published May 4 to 10;

**Canadian Composite Leading Index**, February 1982, to be published May 5 to 12;

**Preliminary Statement of Canadian Trade**, March 1982, to be published May 6;

**Employment, Earnings and Hours**, February 1982, to be published May 6 to 12;

**Labour Force Survey**, April 1982, to be published May 7;

**Building Permits**, February 1982, to be published May 10 to 19;

**Current Economic Analysis, Monthly Review**, May 1982, to be published May 11 to 17;

**Wholesale Trade**, March 1982, to be published May 12 to 21;

**Farm Cash Receipts**, January-March 1982, to be published May 13 to 19;

**Inventories, Shipments and Orders**, March 1982, to be published May 18 to 21;

**The Consumer Price Index**, April 1982, to be published May 21;

**Gross Domestic Product (Industrial Production)**, March 1982, to be published May 24 to 27;

**Unemployment Insurance**, March 1982, to be published May 27 to 31;

**Gross Domestic Product by Industry**, March 1982, to be published May 27 to June 2.



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**THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED APRIL 29 — MAY 6**

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
<b>BUSINESS FINANCE</b>			
Corporation Financial Statistics — 1980 Preliminary Data on Matched Corporations	61-207p	N/C	N/C
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>			
Private and Public Investment in Canada, Outlook 1982	61-205	\$6	\$7.20
<b>SERVICE BULLETINS</b>			
Construction Statistics, Vol. 5: No. 2, Quarterly Investment in Housing, 1981 Preliminary and 1980 Final, No. 3, Building Construction Activity in Metropolitan Areas, 1980-81	64-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
<b>CONSUMER INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>			
Income After Tax, Distributions by Size in Canada, 1979	13-210	\$7	\$8.40
<b>EXTERNAL TRADE</b>			
Exports by Commodities, February 1982	65-004	\$5/\$50	\$6/\$60
<b>HEALTH</b>			
Vital Statistics: Volume I — Births and Deaths, 1980	84-204	\$6	\$7.20
<b>INPUT-OUTPUT</b>			
The Input-output Structure of the Canadian Economy, 1971-78	15-201E	\$15	\$18
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Estimates of Employees by Province and Industry, January 1982	72-008	\$3/\$30	\$3.60/\$36
<b>MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES</b>			
Electric Power Statistics, January 1982	57-001	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Factory Shipments of High Pressure Decorative Laminate Sheet, Quarter Ended March 1982	47-005	\$2.50/\$10	\$3/\$12
Gas Utilities, January 1982	55-002	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Jewellery and Silverware Industry, 1980	47-211	\$4.50	\$5.40
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation, March 1982	44-004	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, March 1982	32-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Primary Iron and Steel, February 1982	41-001	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, March 1982	32-022	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder, March 1982	32-024	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, February 1982	35-003	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Veneer and Plywood Mills, 1980	35-206	\$4.50	\$5.40
<b>MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES</b>			
Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics, January 1982	63-011	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
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Railway Transport: Part V — Freight Carried by Principal Commodity Classes, 1980	52-211	\$10	\$12