



June 4, 1982

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product in constant 1971 prices declined 1.0% in March 1982 to 138.7 from 140.1 in February. The March decrease marked the seventh month of decline in the past nine months and economic activity in Canada now stands 4.7% below the peak of June 1981. Industrial production for March was down 1.8%. Goods-producing industries recorded an output drop of 2.0%, the sharpest downward movement since July of last year, while service-producing industries were off 0.4% in the month.

Major output declines occurred in the manufacturing, trade, construction, and forestry industries. In manufacturing, significant production cutbacks were reported by pulp and paper mills, iron and steel, and steel pipe and tube mills, and machinery manufacturers. In trade, wholesale merchants and department, food, and clothing stores all recorded significant sales declines.

The drop in construction was due in part to a decline in housing starts, as well as a decrease in non-residential building activity. Forestry output was down substantially in March as logging and pulpwood operations slowed considerably.

GDP, First Quarter 1982

The economic data now available for the first quarter of 1982 indicate that the Canadian economy experienced the sharpest quarterly decline since 1954. Gross Domestic Product by industry in constant 1971 prices slumped a record 1.7% in the opening quarter of 1982, following declines of 1.1% and 0.9% respectively in the third and fourth quarters of 1981. The decline was 3.6% since the second quarter peak. Similar large declines (-3.9%) in the economy have occurred twice previously in the post-war period, in 1954 and also in 1946.

In 1946, the main contributors were public administration and agriculture. In 1954, it was agriculture and durable manufacturing industries. In 1982, manufacturing and trade accounted for most of the decrease.

As 1982 got underway, industrial production, one of the most sensitive cyclical economic indicators, fell 3.1% in the quarter; this downward movement was preceded by declines of 3.0% and 4.5% in the third and fourth quarters of 1981.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Feb.	379.21p	376.96p	10.9
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.	15,685.2p	15,630.9p	11.0
Persons with Jobs (million)	Apr.	10.43	10.46	-2.5
Unemployed	Apr.	1,233,000	1,228,000	39.2

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Mar.*	2,784.0	2,618.1	6.0
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Mar.	34,449.5p	34,189.9r	12.4

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Mar.	16,436.9p	14,382.9r	-1.3
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Mar.	18,047.1p	18,284.5r	-7.6

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Apr.	257.3	255.9	11.3
Non-food Component (CPI)	Apr.	240.6	239.3	12.9
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Apr.*	134.9	135.2	2.0
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Apr.*	198.5p	196.8p	12.6
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Apr.*	286.5p	284.5p	6.9

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Mar.*	1,232.8p	2,821.7p	-13.1
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Apr.*	9,061	35,327	-5.5

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Feb.	3,305.8	6,900.6	2.8
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Feb.	34.0	73.8	6.4
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Dec.	9,876.6	97,833.1	-0.9
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Mar.	7.2p	22.5p	-16.9

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Mar.	7,549p	20,295p	1.3
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Mar.	6,522p	17,052p	-7.4

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Apr.	18.1	68.5	-9.2
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Mar.	1,246.3	3,654.3	-12.5

SALES

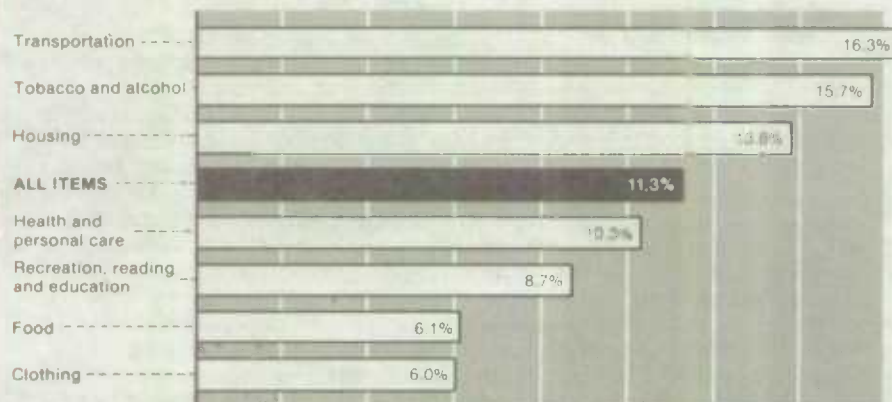
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	694.4	1,872.4	-1.5
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Mar.	16,674.3p	44,909.7p	1.1
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	941.9	2,272.5	-20.1
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Mar.*	7,440.4p	20,601.3p	2.7

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

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

Percentage Change in the Consumer Price Index and its Major Components

April 1981 to April 1982



Source: Statistics Canada, Consumer Prices and Price Indexes (62-010)

Farm Cash Receipts

Farm cash receipts for the period January to March 1982 totalled an estimated \$4,893.5 million, down 12% from the year-earlier level of \$5,547.0 million.

Receipts from the sale of field crops were 19% lower in the latest period at \$2,696.4 million. This decline is primarily due to lower Canadian Wheat Board payments: in the first quarter of 1981 initial payments to producers had been adjusted and a retroactive payment (August 1980 to February 1981) was made in March 1981; because of softer international grain markets, no such adjustment payment was made in 1982. Partly offsetting the decline in payments was the large level of deferred grain receipts which were liquidated in 1982.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock were down 3% from January-March 1981 levels with lower prices received for cattle contributing to the decrease.

Estimated farm cash receipts measure gross cash returns to farmers from the sale of all agricultural products. Also included are 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-March 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 0L7.

Washing Machines/Dryers

Canadian production of electric automatic washing machines during the month of April 1982 totalled 35,058 units.

Production of electric automatic clothes dryers in April amounted to 28,800 units.

For further information, order the April 1982 issue of *Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers* (43-002, \$1.50/\$15), or contact Sharon Boyer (613-996-3226), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

1981 Census of Canada Reference Maps Available

Two new reference map publications from the 1981 Census of Canada will enable users to relate census data to their corresponding geographic areas.

Reference Maps: Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations (99-906, \$9.50) shows the boundaries and components of all 24 census metropolitan areas (CMAs) and 88 census agglomerations (CAs). Each CMA and CA is presented on a separate map and in addition to showing the component municipalities (or census subdivisions) these maps also show three functional parts of each CMA or CA (i.e. the urbanized core and, where applicable, urban and rural fringe areas).

The second publication **Reference Maps: Census Divisions and Subdivisions** (99-907, \$7.50) contains a series of reference maps in three colours showing the boundaries of census divisions, subdivisions (municipalities), and consolidated subdivisions for each province. These maps are generally at a relatively small scale and show the boundaries of these areas with a minimum of background detail. The coverage of most of the maps corresponds, insofar as possible, to regions.

To obtain these reference map bulletins users should contact the nearest Statistics Canada regional reference centre, or Publication Sales and Services, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T7.

Raw Materials Price Index

The Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100) rose 0.9% in April 1982 to a preliminary 198.5 from 196.8 (revised) in March to stand 12.6% above the April 1981 level of 176.3. The raw materials price index excluding coal, crude oil and natural gas posted a 1.8% increase during the month, but was still down 2.9% from April 1981.

The animals and animal products index rose 4.0% in April primarily as a result of higher prices for calves and cattle (+10%) and hogs (+6%).

Jumps in the price of gold (+15%) and silver (+8%), which have been fluctuating wildly in the past few months, accounted for the 3.2% rise in the non-ferrous metals index in April. However, this index has fallen by 14.1% since April 1981 because of a downward trend in the prices of almost all non-ferrous metals, especially lead (-30%), silver (-30%), gold (-23%) and zinc (-12%).

The vegetable products index registered a 0.8% drop in April and was down 14.6% from the year-earlier level. Prices for fresh vegetables were down by 10% (and by 26% over the latest 12 months), chiefly as a result of farmers selling off inventories to make room for new crops.

For further information, order the April 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 March 1982 totalled an estimated 606 408 kilolitres, 4.7% more than in March 1981.

This brought the total estimate of milk sold off farms during the first three months of 1982 to 1 663 604 kilolitres, an increase of 5.0% over the January-March 1981 period.

For further information, order the April 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.

Industry Selling Price Index

The Industry Selling Price Index for manufacturing (1971=100) stood at a preliminary level of 286.5 in April 1982, 0.7% higher than the revised March index of 284.5. As a result, the year-over-year increase was 6.9%, down marginally from the 7.0% registered between March 1981 and March 1982.

The food and beverages price index rose 1.9% in April to a level 6.0% higher than a year earlier. The monthly increase was largely attributable to an advance of 5.5% in the slaughtering and meat processors index, reflecting higher beef and pork prices; other significant increases occurred in the soft drink manufacturers index, up 4.5% due to increases for carbonated drinks, and in the breweries industry index, up 5.7%.

The primary metals price index rose 1.1% in April, and was up 0.6% above its year-earlier level. The main factor in the monthly movement was a 2.5% increase in the smelting and refining index, largely due to a 13.4% rise in prices of precious metals. The monthly advance in precious metals and selected jewellery items in the jewellery and silverware industry (up 6%), boosted the miscellaneous industries index 2.1%.

The metal fabricating industries price index rose 1.1% in the latest month and was up 9.2% over April 1981. The monthly rise was primarily due to a 2.3% rise in the metal stamping and pressing index, reflecting increases in metal can prices.

The pulp and allied products price index registered a decline of 0.5% in April, leaving the index at a level 6.8% higher than a year earlier.

The motor vehicle manufacturers price index was down 0.5% but still stood 4.3% above its April 1981 level. Lower prices for cars and light trucks — resulting from extended warranties — were responsible for the monthly decline.

For further information, order the April 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.

Charitable Organizations, 1980

Charitable organizations in Canada reported revenues totalling \$7,135.7 million in 1980. Revenue sources included: donations (\$2,931.6 million); government grants (\$1,714.4 million); fees (\$64.3 million); sales (\$228.7 million); services (\$1,429.7 million); other income (\$767.0 million).

Of the donations reported for 1980, it has been estimated that \$1,828.5 million was contributed by individuals; \$263.0 million by businesses; \$57.2 million through bequests and \$782.9 million from other sources.

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

Industrial Corporations

After-tax profits of Canadian industrial corporations, seasonally adjusted at quarterly rates were \$3,039 million for the first quarter of 1982, an increase of 0.1% (\$2 million) from the preceding quarter. Profits, not seasonally adjusted, were \$2,882 million, a drop of 40.8% (\$1,985 million) from the first quarter of 1981. Included in these profits are extraordinary gains of \$422 million in the current quarter, a \$357 million loss in the fourth quarter of 1981 and a \$59 million gain in the first quarter of 1981. Excluding the effect of extraordinary gains and losses, seasonally adjusted profits increased by 2.2% from the preceding quarter, while unadjusted profits decreased by 48.9% from the year-earlier quarter.

Seasonally adjusted pre-tax profits were \$5,111 million in the first quarter of 1982, a decrease of 14.7% (\$878 million) from the preceding quarter. Pre-tax profits, not seasonally adjusted, were \$4,913 million, down 42.3% (\$3,609 million) from the first quarter of 1981.

First quarter 1982 sales, seasonally adjusted, decreased by \$3.5 billion to \$121.8 billion from \$125.3 billion in the preceding quarter. Unadjusted sales at \$119.3 billion showed a decrease of 0.3% (\$0.3 billion) from the same quarter of last year.

These data cover all privately owned corporations operating in Canada but exclude agriculture, fishing, construction, finance, insurance, and real estate industries. More detailed statistics for the 47 industry groups are on CANSIM and will be available in publication 61-003. For further information, contact Tom Maxwell or Bill Potter (613-995-9751), Business Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Construction in Canada, 1982

Construction volume in Canada is projected to total \$63,557.7 million in 1982, up from \$56,957.3 million in 1981 and \$48,326.8 million in 1980. The construction program anticipated for 1982 exceeds the 1981 volume by \$6,600.4 million or 11.6% which compares with increases of 17.9% realized in 1981 and 12.3% in 1980. The increase for 1981 is higher than the 15.6% that was anticipated last year for 1981 and amounts in terms of constant dollar volume to an increase of 5.3%.

An analysis of the total value of work to be put in place in 1982 by the various industries reveals some significant variations from 1981. The utilities sector shows the largest percentage increase (24.5%) followed by mining (21.3%) and forestry (17.3%) while the commercial industry shows a small decrease (-3.3%).

Expenditures in all provinces are expected to increase in 1982 with notable advances of 26.6% in Nova Scotia, 20.5% in Alberta, 17.2% in Newfoundland and 15.8% in New Brunswick. In 1982, new construction is estimated to be up 11.6% while the repair portion shows an increase of 11.4%. The proportion of the complete program to be performed under contract during 1982

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New Housing Price Indexes

The Canada composite new housing price index (1976=100) edged down 0.2% to 134.9 in April 1982 from 135.2 in March, marking the third consecutive monthly drop for the Canada total which still stood 2.0% higher than the year-earlier level of 132.3.

In April, new housing prices again showed a notable rise in Winnipeg (3.3%) due to increased cost of new land. Fractional increases from the previous month were shown in Quebec City (0.4%), Ottawa-Hull (0.2%) and Saskatoon (0.2%).

In all other cities surveyed in April, new housing prices showed either no change or declines from the previous month, ranging from -0.1% in Calgary to -2.1% in Thunder Bay. Prices in Vancouver (-1.7%) and Victoria (-1.2%) continued to fall from mid-1981 peaks.

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

will be 73.4%. The value of engineering type construction at 48.6% of the total expected volume for 1982 is up 20.4% over 1981 and the building activity portion (51.4%) is up only 4.4% over the year before. The strength (dollar volume) in the engineering group of structures is primarily due to projects classified under gas and oil facilities and electric power construction. As noted above, building construction will probably rise by 4.4% with the largest dollar volume increases in institutional buildings and commercial-type buildings such as office buildings, stores, warehouses, etc.

For additional information concerning construction expenditures by sectors, provinces and by contract-own account breakdown, contact Margaret Hartley (613-995-8423), Construction Census Section, Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6. The publication Construction in Canada, 1980-1982 (64-201, \$7), which contains the tables accompanying this advance release, is scheduled to be released in June.

Building Permits

Building permits issued by Canadian municipalities in March 1982 were estimated at a seasonally adjusted \$1,385.1 million, up 11.9% from \$1,237.5 million in February but down 11.8% from the year-earlier level of \$1,571.0 million. The increase from the preceding month entirely reflected activity in the non-residential sector, while residential permits decreased for the third consecutive month.

Residential permits were issued in March for a total value of \$483.5 million, seasonally adjusted, down 3.9% from February's \$503.2 million. Builders' applications were approved for the construction of 3,641 single-detached homes and 6,128 multiple dwellings compared to 4,180 singles and 5,199 multiples in February. The March performance provides indication of a continuing deterioration of housebuilding activity throughout the second quarter. In March 1981, residential permits totalled \$920.4 million.

Building intentions in the non-residential sector strengthened in March, particularly in Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia. The value of projects authorized reached a seasonally adjusted level of \$901.6 million, up 22.8% from February's \$734.2 million and 38.6% higher than the March 1981 total of \$650.6 million. By category, industrial projects value increased 28.0% to \$170.4 million from \$133.1 million in February, commercial projects rose 7.1% to \$539.3 million from \$503.7 million and publicly-initiated projects almost doubled to \$191.9 million from \$97.4 million.

Building permits issued in the first three months of 1982 totalled \$2.8 billion, down 13.1% from \$3.2 billion in the January-March 1981 period. Non-residential permits rose 17.8% in value but this was more than offset by a 39.0% drop in permits for residential construction.

For further information, order the March 1982 issue of Building Permits (64-001, \$3.50/\$35), or contact J.P. Delisle (613-995-8213), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z7.

Railway Operating Statistics

The seven major railways in Canada reported a combined net loss from operations of \$1.7 million in December 1981. Operating revenues of \$529.8 million were up 13.8% from the 1980 level.

Revenue freight ton-miles were down by 16.9% in December 1981, freight train-miles showed a decrease of 7.7%, and freight car-miles declined 1.2%. Average revenue per ton-mile of freight was 3.013 cents, up from 2.382 cents in December 1980. Revenue passenger-miles increased by 11.3% to 166.2 million.

For further information, order the December 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.



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Manufacturers of Electric Wire and Cable, 1980	43-209	\$4.50	\$5.40
Manufacturers of Industrial Chemicals, 1980	46-219	\$4.50	\$5.40
Manufacturers of Small Electrical Appliances, 1980	43-203	\$4.50	\$5.40
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Primary Iron and Steel, March 1982	41-001	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, April 1982	32-022	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder, April 1982	32-024	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Shipments of Floor Tiles, April 1982	47-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
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