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Weekly Bulletin
BIBLIOTHÈQUE

July 2, 1982

Gross Domestic Product

Preliminary data on Canada's economic performance in April 1982 indicate continuing deterioration as Gross Domestic Product by industry, in constant 1971 prices, declined 0.7%. The drop in employment in April was also 0.7%. Economic activity has now fallen 5.1% below the peak reached in June 1981; for employment the decline since June is 2.7%.

Approximately two-thirds of the April GDP decline occurred among service-producing industries (compared to only about one-fifth of the previous month's decrease). Industrial production was down 0.4% in April from March, to a level 12.2% below its peak month of June last year. (In the United States, industrial production fell 0.8% in April and stood 8.8% below the August 1981 high.)

The most significant output reduction in April originated in the transportation, storage and communication sector, which saw major declines in air, railway, truck, urban and pipeline transport, grain elevators, and telephone systems.

Trade — including wholesale and retail trade — recorded a decline of 1.2% in the month, with declining sales by wholesale merchants accounting almost entirely for the drop.

Other substantial declines in output in April were reported in the financial institutions, construction, mining and manufacturing sectors. The cutback in mining activity stemmed from a sharp reduction in crude petroleum production. The decline in manufacturing was attributable to widespread decreases among non-durables manufacturers, especially manufacturers of paper and allied products. An increase in durables manufacturing during April was primarily due to increased automobile and truck production.

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

Wholesale Trade

Canadian wholesale merchants' sales in April 1982 dropped by 10.6% from the April 1981 level. Lower sales were recorded in all provinces, declines ranging from 3.3% for New Brunswick to 21.9% for Prince Edward Island.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Mar.	381.87p	381.00p	10.9
Labour Income (\$ million)	Mar.*	16,210.3p	16,046.3p	11.0
Persons with Jobs (million)	May	10.70	10.43	-2.9
Unemployed	May	1,241,000	1,233,000	45.3

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Apr.	3,324.8	2,784.0	7.0
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Apr.	34,235.4p	34,527.6r	10.0

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Apr.	15,158.9p	16,464.2r	-8.0
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Apr.	18,032.0p	18,013.0r	-8.6

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	May*	260.8	257.3	11.8
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Apr.	134.9	135.2	2.0
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	May*	200.4p	198.2p	10.9
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	May*	154.5p	151.1p	-1.3
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	May*	288.5p	287.4p	6.9

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Apr.*	1,010.5p	3,865.4p	-24.6
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Apr.	9,061	35,327	-5.5

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Apr.*	3,816.1	14,807.2	6.1
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Mar.	34.8	108.8	4.4
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Mar.	9,127.4	28,801.6	5.0
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Apr.	6.1p	28.6p	17.5

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Apr.	7,121p	27,506p	1.4
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Apr.	6,017p	23,011p	-9.5

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	May	20.0	88.5	-6.9
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Mar.	1,246.3	3,654.3	-12.5

SALES

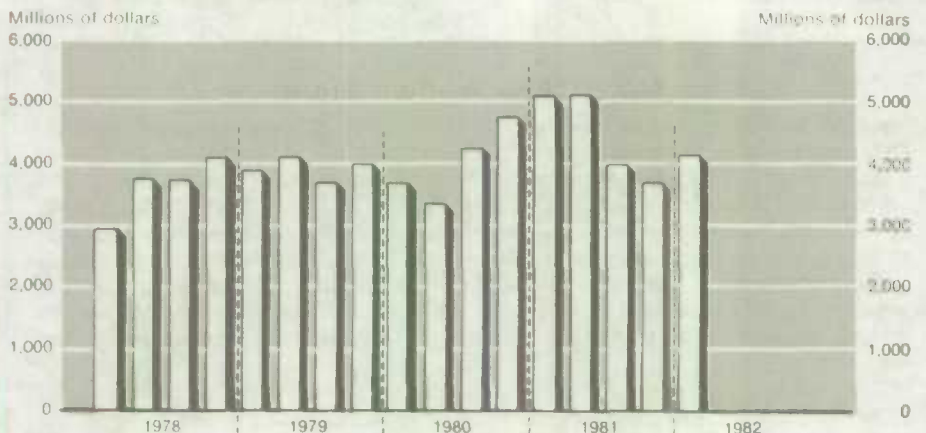
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	791.7	2,664.2	-1.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Apr.	15,139.9p	60,110.9p	-1.0
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	999.5	3,272.0	-21.3
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	8,048.7p	28,629.7p	2.8

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

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

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)

1981 Preliminary Homicide Statistics Released

Preliminary statistics show a total of 647 homicide offences were reported in Canada in 1981, a 9.1% increase over the 593 offences in 1980. These 647 offences included 599 murders, 44 manslaughter, and 4 infanticides.

1981 Preliminary Homicide Statistics, a free non-catalogued bulletin released this week by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics provides the rates and actual numbers of homicide offences for Canada and the provinces. An historical table allows comparison of 1981 data to that of the previous four years, as well as to an average of the five year period, 1977-1981.

For further information, contact L.D. Brown (613-995-0855), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, R.H. Coats Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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Key Economic Series

Unemployment Insurance, April 1982, to be published June 28 to July 2;

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

Labour Income, April 1982, to be published July 6 to 9;

Canadian Composite Leading Index, April 1982, to be published July 7 to 14;

Industrial Corporations Financial Statistics, 1st Quarter 1982 (Final Data), to be published July 8 to 12;

Employment, Earnings and Hours, April 1982, to be published July 8 to 16;

Labour Force Survey, June 1982, to be published July 9;

Retail Trade, May 1982, to be published July 9 to 16;

Farm Cash Receipts, January-May 1982, to be published July 12 to 15;

Wholesale Trade, May 1982, to be published July 12 to 20;

Raw Materials Price Index

The Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100) rose 1.1% to a May 1982 preliminary level of 200.4 from a revised 198.2 in April and was up 10.9% from the May 1981 index of 180.7. The latest monthly rise was led by increases in the indexes for animals and animal products (5.5%) and vegetable products (1.3%) and reflected price increases for most food products. The price index of raw materials excluding coal, crude petroleum and natural gas rose 2.3% in May, leaving it just 1.3% below the May 1981 level — the smallest year-to-year decline recorded for this index since it started to drop nine months ago.

The 5.5% rise in the animals and animal products price index in April was largely attributable to a 16% increase in hog prices (up 47% from a year earlier) and higher cattle and calf prices. Red meat prices continue to soar due to reduced supply and the increasing accessibility of export markets.

The vegetable products price index rose 1.3% in May; increases in the prices of fresh fruit (11%) and fresh vegetables (12%) — attributable in large part to seasonal factors — and a 2% increase in grain prices more than offset a 20% drop in the price of raw sugar. On an annual basis, the index has declined 11.8% since May 1981, primarily due to lower prices for grain (-14%), raw sugar (-40%) and fresh vegetables (-18%).

The 2.1% decline in the non-ferrous metals price index in May was largely attributable to the declines in gold (-6%) and silver (-10%) prices; in contrast, most other non-ferrous metals rose in price.

Industry Selling Price Index

The Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100) advanced 0.4% in May 1982 to a preliminary level of 288.5 from 287.4 (revised) in April to stand 6.9% higher than the year-earlier level. The year-over-year change continues to reflect the generally weak market conditions throughout the manufacturing sector which have been observed over the course of the last six months. Most of the major component groups showed only fractional movements in May; however, notable increases were shown for food and beverages industries (1.2%) and transportation equipment industries (1.0%) while miscellaneous industries declined by 1.2%.

The food and beverages industries price index rose 1.2% in May to a level 7.4% above a year ago. The main impetus for the latest monthly increase came from a 6.2% advance in the slaughtering and meat processors index; price rises averaging 10% for pork and 8% for beef products were largely responsible for this advance. Partly offsetting were declines of 4.8% for fish products and 10.9% for sugar.

The transportation equipment industries component was up 1.0% in May, largely reflecting a 1.4% rise in the motor vehicle price index due to the rescinding of rebates on most small car models.

The price index for miscellaneous industries dropped 1.2%, reflecting once again the situation in the precious metals market; precious metals affect this major group through the price index for jewellery and silverware which fell 3.7%.

The primary metals price index edged down 0.1% in May, due to a 0.4% decline in the smelting and refining index. Lower gold and silver prices were the main contributors to the price decline; these outweighed increases of 1%-2% for the major base metals.

Over the last six months the ISPI has exhibited moderate price increases totaling 3.5%. The largest increase for any group has occurred in the non-metallic mineral products industries which have risen 9.4% over the last half year and accounted for approximately 8% of the total movement. Of the total ISPI change almost half has been attributable to the food and beverage industries and petroleum and coal products industries, which increased 5.1% and 7.0%, respectively.

Telephone Statistics

The 14 major telephone systems in Canada reported revenues of \$6,859 million in 1981, an increase of 18.2% over 1980. Operating expenses were up 18.2% to \$4,715 million. Net operating revenue at \$2,144 million showed an increase of 18.3% over 1980. Telephone toll messages increased 8.4% to 1,453 million.

For further information, order *Telephone Statistics, Preliminary Report on Large Telephone Systems, 1981 (56-202, \$3)*, or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271).

More Older Women Alone

For older women in Canada, how they live or whether they live alone varies substantially from province to province.

According to *The Living Arrangements of Canada's Older Women*, 76% of the older women in Newfoundland were living in families and fewer than 14% lived alone in 1976, while in the Western provinces, less than 55% of older women lived with relatives, and approximately 33% lived alone. Susan Fletcher and Leroy Stone, authors of the study released today by Statistics Canada, suggest that the factors which affect this east-west dichotomy in the living arrangements of older women include provincial differences in patterns of widowhood, fertility rates and urbanization.

Copies of the study (catalogue 86-503; Canada, \$7; other countries, \$8.40) may be ordered from Publication Sales and Services, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6. For further information, contact Susan Fletcher (613-995-4397), Population Studies.

Canada's International Indebtedness

Canada's balance of international indebtedness — the amount by which outstanding liabilities, or obligations to other countries, exceed Canada's assets or claims against other countries — expanded by 15% during 1978 to reach \$62.6 billion at the year-end. Canada's gross assets — claims against other countries in long-term and short-term forms — totalled \$61.8 billion, an advance of 12% over 1977. Canada's gross liabilities — total long-term and short-term liabilities owing to other countries — grew at a slightly higher rate of 13% to \$124.4 billion.

Preliminary estimates produced on the basis of available data indicate that at the end of 1981 Canada's balance of international indebtedness amounted to \$90 billion, a sizeable expansion from \$78 billion at 1980 year-end. Canada's gross external assets totalled \$83 billion, while gross liabilities to other countries amounted to \$173 billion.

Of the \$6.5 billion increase in total assets during 1978, some \$5.3 billion or over 80% of the expansion was in long-term assets while short-term assets accounted for \$1.2 billion, rising to \$29.1 billion. Canadian long-term investment abroad amounted to \$32.7 billion, with direct investment constituting about one-half of this total. Long-term claims of the Government of Canada — in the form of export credits, other loans and subscriptions — totalled \$7.7 billion at the end of 1978. Net official monetary assets decreased by over one-half to \$2.2 billion, the lowest level since 1960, while short-term receivables rose by 50% to \$9.6 billion.

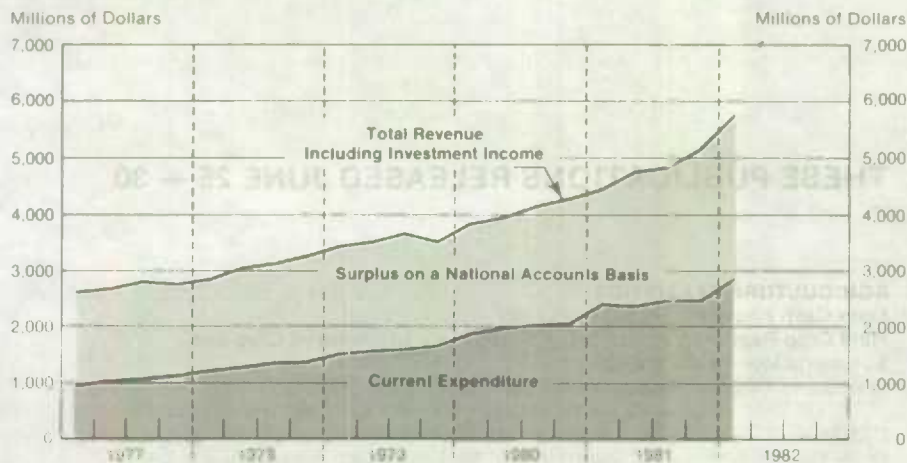
Among the liabilities to non-residents at 1978 year-end, long-term claims by foreigners rose by 12% to \$108.3 billion, while short-term liabilities expanded by 20% to \$16.1 billion. Foreign long-term investment in Canada amounted to \$102 billion with direct investment, at \$48.2 billion, comprising about 47%. With the addition of other long-term liabilities — such as non-resident equity in Canada's assets abroad and official liabilities in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) — total long-term liabilities reached \$108.3 billion. Of the short-term claims, non-resident holdings of Canadian dollars grew by 13% to \$4.4 billion, while short-term payables rose more sharply by 23% to \$11.7 billion.

All the items in Canada's balance of international indebtedness, except net official monetary assets, miscellaneous short-term receivables and payables, and net errors and omissions, have been allocated geographically — to the United States, United Kingdom and all other countries. On this basis Canada's net indebtedness position with the United States totalled \$67 billion at the end of 1978 with gross assets at \$11.6 billion and gross liabilities at a sizeable \$78.6 billion.

For further information, contact F.B.Y. Chow (613-996-2545), Balance of Payments Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z8.

Canada Pension Plan

(Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates)



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

Building Permits

The value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities — a key indicator of future construction activity — fell 33.6% in April 1982 to a seasonally adjusted level of \$1,038.0 million from \$1,359.0 million in March. The April figure was 40.1% lower than the year-earlier total of \$1,732.8 million.

The seasonally adjusted value of residential building permits, which had decreased 3.4% in March, dropped a further 4.2% in April to \$465.7 million from \$486.2 million. Builders' applications were approved for the construction of 3,517 single-detached homes and 5,121 multiple dwellings, down from 3,745 singles and 6,009 multiples in March. This performance provides little hope for an improvement in the level of housing starts in upcoming months.

Non-residential permits, which until March had partly compensated for the sluggishness in the residential sector, fell 34.4% in April to a seasonally adjusted \$572.3 million from \$872.8 million. The drop was most pronounced in Calgary where notable declines were recorded in both industrial and commercial developments. By category, new industrial projects fell 49.3% in value to \$84.5 million from \$166.5 million in March, commercial projects declined 37.6% to \$325.6 million from \$521.9 million and publicly-initiated projects decreased 12.0% to \$162.2 million from \$184.4 million.

For further information, order the April 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.

Coal/Coke Statistics

Coal production in Canada increased 7.6% in April 1982 to 3 816 131 tonnes from 3 544 842 a year earlier. Landed imports rose 39.4% to 1 675 648 tonnes from 1 201 544.

Coal production in the January-April 1982 period totalled 14 807 232 tonnes, up 6.1% from 13 951 575 in the same period in 1981.

For further information, order the April 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.

Industrial Production

Preliminary estimates indicate that industrial production declined 0.4% in April 1982, marking the tenth consecutive month of decline, although the rate of decrease was slowed considerably. The seasonally adjusted Index of Industrial Production (1971=100) declined to 124.0 from 124.5 in March.

A sharp decline in non-durable manufacturing output in April was partly offset by an increase in durable manufacturing. Mining activity was also down in the month, while utilities output showed a moderate gain.

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

Labour Income

Labour income for the month of March 1982 was estimated at \$16,210.3 million, an increase of \$1,603.5 million or 11.0% from March 1981.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries increased by \$60.6 million between February and March 1982 to \$15,334.0 million.

The estimates will be published in the January-March issue of *Estimates of Labour Income* (72-005, \$5/\$20).

Electric Lamps

Total sales in Canada of electric lamps (light sources) of all types including imports during the month of May 1982 were valued at \$16.0 million.



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