Catalogue 11-002E (Français 11-002F) ISSN 0380-0547

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Price: Canada, $25.00 a year/Other Countries, $30.00 a year

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

# infomat Weekly Bulletin



August 20, 1982

## Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada (1971=100) advanced by 0.5% in July 1982 to 264.8 from 263.4 in June. The 12-month rise between July 1981 and July 1982 stood at 10.8%, the second consecutive month in which the year-over-year percentage change has registered a deceleration in the rate of increase. The latest monthly increase was largely attributable to higher housing charges and to a lesser extent to increased food prices, higher recreation costs and increased transportation charges. Tobacco and alcohol prices also advanced while those for clothing, on average, declined. After registering increases of 2.2% in each of the two preceding months, food price increases moderated significantly, advancing by 0.6% between June and July. The all-items-excluding-food index rose 0.5% between June and July, down marginally from the increase of 0.7% registered in the previous month.

Higher prices for fresh fruit, most notably for apples (reflecting reduced domestic storage stocks), oranges and grapefruit, were largely responsible for the 0.5% increase in the food-purchased-from-stores index. In July, the index stood 8.0% above its level for July 1981. The food-purchased-from-restaurants index advanced 1.0% in July, up 11.0% above its level for July 1981. As a result, the aggregate food index increased 8.6% over its level of July 1981, down from the 9.3% increase registered between June 1981 and June 1982.

Higher shelter charges, for both rented and owned accommodation, coupled with increased hotel and motel rates and, in several cities, higher water and electricity charges, were largely responsible for the 0.5% increase in the all-items-excluding-food index. Between July 1981 and July 1982, the index advanced 11.5%, down from the 11.8% increase registered between June 1981 and June 1982.

Viewed in terms of goods and services, the price level for goods advanced by 0.2% while those for services increased 1.0%. As a result, between July 1981 and July 1982, the price level for goods advanced by 9.2% while that for services rose by 13.2%.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the all-items CPI rose 0.6% in July, this comprised

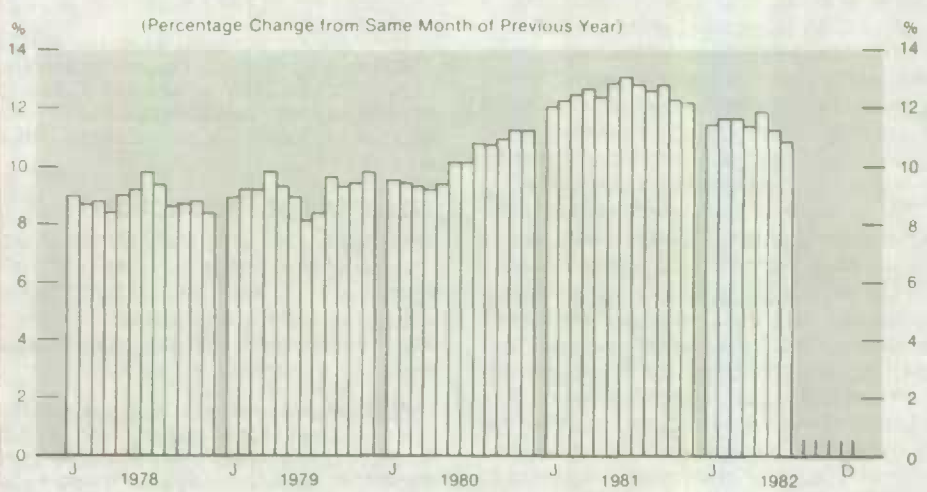
(continued on next page)

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

| | | | Previous Month | % Change From Year Ago |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **EMPLOYMENT, INCOME** | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings ($) | May* | 387.02p | 387.58p | 9.7 |
| Labour Income ($ million) | May* | 16,506.9p | 16,390.2p | 6.2 |
| Persons with Jobs (million) | July | 11.00 | 10.89 | -4.0 |
| Unemployed | July | 1,386,000 | 1,303,000 | 66.0 |
| **INVENTORIES** | | | | |
| Department Store ($ million) | June* | 2,909.1 | 3,120.6 | 8.0 |
| Manufacturers' Owned ($ million) | May | 33,867.0p | 34,259.9r | 8.2 |
| **ORDERS** | | | | |
| Manufacturers' New Orders ($ million) | May | 15,180.0p | 15,095.2r | -6.1 |
| Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders ($ million) | May | 17,704.4p | 18,070.9r | -9.7 |
| **PRICES** | | | | |
| Consumer Price Index (1971=100) | July* | 264.8 | 263.4 | 10.8 |
| New House Price Index (1976=100) | June | 133.1 | 133.7 | -1.5 |
| Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100) | June | 200.1p | 200.7p | 6.4 |
| Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas | June | 153.5p | 154.6p | -2.8 |
| Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100) | June | 289.9p | 288.7p | 6.5 |
| **CONSTRUCTION** | | | **Year-to-date** | |
| Building Permits ($ million) | May | 978.1p | *4,961.2p* | *-29.0* |
| Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units) | June | 9,288 | *52,905* | *-25.3* |
| **ENERGY** | | | | |
| Coal Production (thousand tonnes) | May | 3 911.9 | *18 719.1* | *10.3* |
| Electricity Generation (terawatt hours) | May | 28.7 | *168.3* | *2.8* |
| Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres) | Mar. | 9 127.4 | *28 801.6* | *5.0* |
| Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres) | June* | 7.4p | *43.6p* | *-17.3* |
| **FOREIGN TRADE** | | | | |
| Exports — Balance of Payments Basis ($ million) | June | 7,826p | *42,764p* | *0.7* |
| Imports — Balance of Payments Basis ($ million) | June | 5,915p | *34,876p* | *-11.5* |
| **PRODUCTION** | | | | |
| Railway Carloadings (million tonnes) | June | 19.2 | *108.2* | *-7.5* |
| Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes) | June | 964.6 | *7 243.7* | *-15.5* |
| **SALES** | | | | |
| Department Store Sales ($ million) | June | 790.7 | *4,266.0* | *-2.0* |
| Manufacturers' Shipments ($ million) | May | 15,546.5p | *75,554.9p* | *-1.9* |
| New Motor Vehicle Sales ($ million) | June* | 1,093.3 | *5,377.1* | *-18.0* |
| Retail Sales ($ million) | June* | 8,389.7p | *45,476.0p* | *2.5* |

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

## Consumer Price Index for Canada (CPI)




Source: **Statistics Canada**, The Consumer Price Index (62-001) no change in the food index and an increase of 0.5% in the all-items-excluding-food index.

*For further information, order the July 1982 issue of The Consumer Price Index (62-001, $2.50/$25), or contact Sandra Shadlock or Suzanne Lavoie (613-995-4078), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

## Department Store Sales

Department store sales were $790.7 million in June 1982, a decrease of 5.4% from June 1981. Sales decreased in 22 of the 40 departments with the largest losses for major appliances (-37.2%) and furniture (-36.9%). The largest gains were posted for furs (+18.8%), women's and girls' gloves, mitts and accessories (+9.9%) and repairs and services (+9.9%). Sales decreased from year-earlier levels in all provinces except New Brunswick (+5.0%), Manitoba (+2.0%) and Saskatchewan (fractional increase). The largest decreases were in Ontario (-9.9%) and Quebec (-6.7%). Sales and percentage changes for metropolitan areas were: Halifax-Dartmouth, $10.0 million (-1.1%); Quebec City, $19.2 million (-2.7%); Montreal, $79.4 million (-9.5%); Ottawa-Hull, $32.7 million (-0.9%); Toronto, $109.5 million (-13.6%); Hamilton, $20.5 million (-10.6%); Winnipeg, $36.9 million (+3.3%); Edmonton, $54.2 million (-0.8%); Calgary, $48.1 million (-1.2%); and Vancouver, $80.4 million (-6.7%).

The selling value of stocks held in June 1982 at $2,909.1 million showed an increase of 8.0% from June 1981.

*For further information, order the June 1982 issue of Department Store Sales and Stocks (63-002, $3/$30), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z9.*

## Security Transactions

Transactions with non-residents in outstanding Canadian securities produced a net inflow of capital from abroad of $13 million in June 1982. A net inflow of $53 million was recorded from equity transactions, while trading with non-residents in outstanding Canadian bonds resulted in a net outflow of $40 million — the first monthly net outflow in more than two years. American and British investors were net sellers of Canadian bonds during the month, while there was a decline in net acquisitions by residents of Japan and continental Europe. This development was partly related to the sharp depreciation in June of the Canadian dollar vis-à-vis the United States dollar.

Trading in outstanding foreign securities gave rise to a net capital outflow of $67 million in June, comprised of a net outflow of $43 million for the purchase of foreign equities and $24 million related to bond trading. Residents increased substantially their net purchases of foreign bonds during the first half of 1982: net purchases amounted to nearly $100 million, more than was recorded in all of 1981.

## Publications

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## Refined Petroleum Products

Preliminary data show net sales in Canada of all refined petroleum products dropped 11.3% in June 1982 to 6 924.1 thousand cubic metres from 7 805.6 thousand cubic metres a year earlier.

Canadian refineries produced 7 436.4 thousand cubic metres of refined petroleum products in the latest month, down 13.7% from 8 615.3 thousand cubic metres in June 1981.

*For further information, order the June 1982 issue of Refined Petroleum Products (45-004, $3.50/$35), or contact R. Godin (613-996-3139), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

## Railway Operating Statistics

The seven major railways in Canada reported a combined net loss from operations of $31.3 million in January 1982. Operating revenues of $433.1 million were down 3.4% from the 1981 level.

Revenue freight tonne-kilometres were down by 19.8% in the latest month; freight train-kilometres decreased 12.1% and freight car-kilometres 21.8%. Average revenue per tonne-kilometre of freight was 2.157 cents. Revenue passenger-kilometres decreased by 19.4% from January 1981 to 164.2 million.

*For further information, order the January 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.*

## Steel Ingot Production

Preliminary estimates show Canadian production of steel ingots dropped to 820 497 tonnes in July 1982 from 1 379 872 tonnes a year earlier. Pig iron production totalled 606 459 tonnes in the latest month, down from 940 610 tonnes in July 1981.

*For further information, order the July 1982 issue of Steel Ingots and Pig Iron (41-002, $1.50/$15), or contact Gerry W. Barrett (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

## Retail Trade

Total retail sales without seasonal adjustment for June 1982 were $8,389.7 million, an increase of 1.6% over June 1981. Sales were higher in 19 of the 28 trade groups with the largest gains for all other food stores (+18.7%), pharmacies, patent medicine and cosmetics stores (+17.8%) and grocery, confectionery and sundries stores (+13.5%). The largest sales declines were for household furniture stores (-34.2%), furniture, TV, radio and appliance stores (-29.3%) and household appliance stores (-24.3%). Sales increased in all provinces except British Columbia (-6.4%) and Alberta (no change), advances ranging from 7.3% in Manitoba to 1.5% in Prince Edward Island. Montreal sales rose 3.6%, Toronto, 0.4%; and Winnipeg, 12.6%. Vancouver sales declined 6.6%.

Revised total retail trade without seasonal adjustment for May 1982 was $8,464.6 million, an increase of 2.5% from May 1981.

Cumulative sales for January to June 1982 totalled $45,476.0 million, up 2.5% over the same period last year.

Seasonally adjusted, retail trade for June was at a level of $7,918.6 million, down 3.6% from $8,210.9 million in May. Furniture, TV, radio and appliance stores (-9.7%), automotive parts and accessories stores (-6.6%) and men's clothing stores (-8.3%) showed the largest decreases, while the largest increases were for pharmacies, patent medicine and cosmetics stores (+3.7%) and florists (+1.8%). Six provinces had decreased sales from May, losses ranging from -6.3% for Saskatchewan to -1.0% for Manitoba.

*For further information, order the June 1982 issue of Retail Trade (63-005, $3.50/$35), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z9.*

## Wholesale Trade

Sales by Canadian wholesale merchants in June 1982 dropped by 4.9% from the June 1981 level. Seven of the provinces recorded lower wholesale sales, decreases ranging from -3.0% for Alberta to -17.3% for British Columbia.

Wholesale inventories at June 30, 1982 showed an increase of 3.6% from a year earlier.

*For further information, order the June 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.*

## Farm Product Prices

The Canada index number of farm prices of agricultural products (1971=100) was 298.4 in June 1982, up 0.8% from the May level of 296.1, but 2.4% lower than the June 1981 index of 305.7.

## Canadian Leading Indicator

The rate of decline in the leading indicator continued to slow in May 1982 to -1.75%, but gave no indication that the recession will end in the short term. The index (1971=100) fell from 114.33 to 112.34. Leading indicators of household demand remained negative in spite of a firming in retail sales in April and May. The recovery of exports remains tentative as indicated by renewed signs of weakness in the American economy. The outlook for investment outlays remains poor. The non-filtered version of the leading indicator reflected these negative indications, recording a larger decline than the 0.5% drop in April. The index declined by 0.9% from 110.8 to 109.8 as six of the components fell, one more than in April.

The indicators of consumer spending for goods continued to fall at less rapid rates in May, in reaction to the recent firming of household demand. Sales of furniture and household appliances and of new motor vehicles declined by 1.00% and 2.49% respectively, after decreases of 1.44% and 3.41% in April and of 2.15% and 4.04% in March. The non-filtered versions of these components do not indicate, however, that consumer demand has reversed its cyclical decline. Sales of furniture and appliances returned to their downward trend in May, falling 1.3%, while the most recent statistics on auto sales are not reassuring for a sustained recovery.

The fall in the index of residential construction accelerated in May to -5.99% due to a 23% drop in the non-filtered version. The reduction of over 50% since the expiry of the MURB program presages a sharp decline in construction activity in the third quarter. All the components signal an accentuation of the weakness in this sector. Housing starts approached 100,000 units at annual rates and building permits fell to 77,000 units, a decline of 56% compared to the peak in the fourth quarter. Mortgage loan approvals fell 28% in May. It will be difficult to reverse this trend, as employment and income prospects continue to decline amidst an environment of high and fluctuating interest rates.

The outlook for the manufacturing sector improved in May. The limited scope of positive signs within the non-filtered data, however, attests to the fragility of these signs of improvement. The ratio of shipments to finished goods inventories fell from 1.39 to 1.37 as the non-filtered version rose from 1.35 to 1.37, due to a rise in shipments and a decline in stocks of finished goods. Shipments were led higher in May by export demand, but the renewed decline in June of several indicators of American demand could well interrupt this rebound. Although the rate of descent of new orders slowed to 0.61%, the non-filtered version has not risen significantly to date this year. Weakness in industries related to consumer and business demand served to reduce new orders for durable goods by 2.9% in May. The continuation of the process of inventory correction depends upon the short-term evolution of final demand, for which the drop in orders is not encouraging. The average workweek in manufacturing fell 0.22% in May.

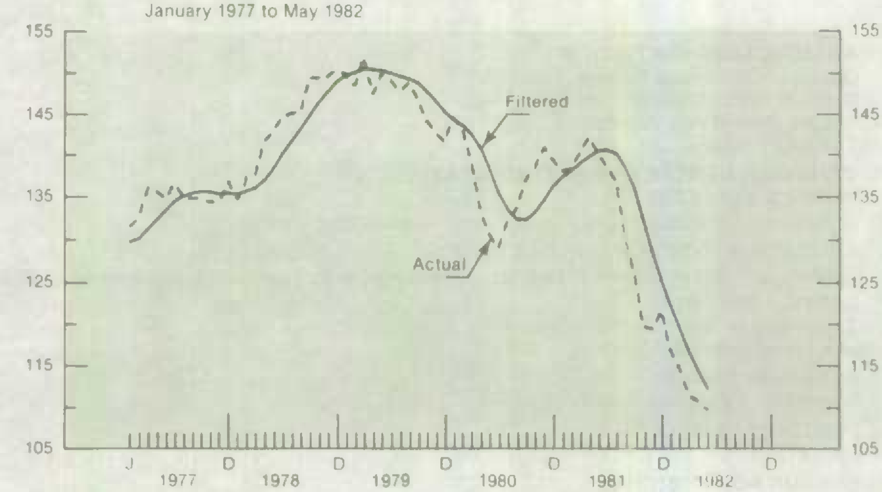
The percentage change in price per unit labour costs continued to decline at a rapid rate (-1.02%), indicating that the squeeze on corporate liquidity is not yet easing. The decline occurred in spite of a drop in non-filtered unit labour costs (-3.2%), indicating there has been an increase in productivity which has not been reflected in wages.

The real money supply registered a slight increase of 0.11% in May, after 16 consecutive declines which had reduced the index to a level 15% below that registered at its peak in 1981. The stock market did not respond to these signs of improvement, registering large losses again in May as profits and dividends have fallen sharply. The index of stocks decreased 3.27% after a decline of 2.06% in April.

The leading indicator for the United States edged down by 0.05% in May, after declines of 0.47% in April and 0.88% in March. This slowing is explained by the second consecutive increase in the non-filtered version in May, while at the same time there has been an appreciable increase in Canadian exports destined to the U.S. The flattening-out of the U.S. leader in June, reflecting in particular a renewed decline of consumer demand, underlines the tentative nature of the firming of the U.S. economy.

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

**The Canadian Composite Leading Index** (1971=100)




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

## Restaurant Statistics

Preliminary estimates for June 1982 show restaurants, caterers and taverns in Canada had sales totalling $858.4 million. Final estimates for May 1982 indicate total sales of $843.9 million.

*For further information on sales of chains versus independents and provincial sales by kind of business, order the June 1982 issue of Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics (63-011, $1.50/$15), or contact R. Bennett (613-996-9301).*

## Questionnaire Inventory Publication Developed

Statistics Canada is now making available a different type of "publication" to its users. The *Inventory of Statistics Canada Questionnaires on Microfiche, 1981* provides "meta data" (information about data) for the full range of statistical information collected by Statistics Canada. This publication consists primarily of microfiche but also includes an *Index*, in traditional paper format, to access these microfiche.

The first 105 microfiche reproduce all the more than 1,000 different questionnaires, plus related instruction material, used to collect statistics in 1981. The second microfiche section contains more detailed documentation of the collection and processing procedures of one or more significant statistical programs. Each year different programs will be featured until documentation exists for each one.

For this 1981 edition, the areas featured are the 1981 censuses of population and housing, and of agriculture. A selection of the more significant procedures, instructions and manuals is included on 76 microfiche.

Statistical analysis is only as good as one's understanding of the data. To serious researchers, the *Inventory of Statistics Canada Questionnaires on Microfiche, 1981* (catalogue no. 12-205, $200 in Canada, $240 elsewhere) will become a constant companion to their computer terminal and microfiche reader. Libraries catering to statistical users will find this publication equally indispensable.

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| Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers, June 1982 | 43-002 | $1.50/$15 | $1.80/$18 |
| Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, June 1982 | 43-005 | $1.50/$15 | $1.80/$18 |
| Gypsum Products, June 1982 | 44-003 | $1.50/$15 | $1.80/$18 |
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| Urban Transit, June 1982 | 53-003 | $1.50/$15 | $1.80/$18 |
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| **Communications** — Vol. 12, No. 5, Telecommunications Statistics, First Quarter 1982 | 56-001 | $1.50/$15 | $1.80/$18 |

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