

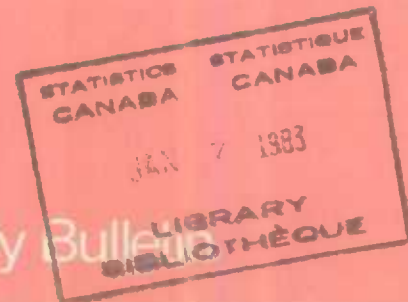


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Weekly Bulletin



January 7, 1983

## Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance payments made to claimants in October 1982 totalled \$694 million, a decrease of 1% from September but more than double the \$333 million paid out in October 1981. Benefits for the first 10 months of 1982 amounted to \$6.8 billion, up 72% from the January-October period in 1981; above-average increases were shown in Alberta (167%), British Columbia (137%) and Ontario (77%).

Claimants qualifying for unemployment insurance benefits for the week ended October 16 totalled 1,113,000, a rise of 7% from the previous month and 79% more than in October 1981. Of the beneficiaries, 34% (40% last year) resided in Quebec, 28% (25%) in Ontario, 14% (9%) in British Columbia, 13% (18%) in the Atlantic provinces and 11% (7%) in the Prairie provinces.

Claims submitted by persons seeking benefits in October numbered 355,000, up 3% from September and 23% from October 1981. For the first 10 months of 1982, claims reached 3,093,000, an increase of 39% from the same period in 1981.

For further information, order the October-December 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.

## Gross Domestic Product

Real gross domestic product in constant 1971 prices is estimated to have declined 0.9% in October 1982 from the September level. Since the peak of June 1981, real GDP has declined by almost 9%. The index of industrial production, which fell 3.2% in October has declined almost 19% since the peak in June 1981. (In contrast, the U.S. index of industrial production in November was about 12% below its peak of July 1981.)

In October, most of the decrease in GDP occurred in the manufacturing industries. Declines were widespread in manufacturing but two of the most dramatic changes were a decline of 18% in motor vehicle manufacturing, as exports to the U.S. declined, and of 21% in motor vehicle parts manufacturing. Since the peak in July 1981, motor vehicle manufacturers' output has fallen by 38% and motor vehicle parts

(continued on next page)

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Sept.	393.26p	392.02p	7.0
Labour Income (\$ million)	Sept.	16,880.7p	16,401.0p	2.2
Persons with Jobs (million)	Nov.	10.36	10.52	-4.5
Unemployed	Nov.	1,438,000	1,388,000	55.0

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Oct.	3,338.1	2,826.5	-11.5
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Oct.	32,105.2p	32,533.4r	-2.1

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Oct.	14,984.3p	15,773.3r	-8.3
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Oct.	16,856.6p	17,129.0r	-14.6

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Nov.	271.0	269.2	9.8
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Nov.*	129.7	130.2	-3.4
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Nov.*	200.9p	200.9p	4.0
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Nov.*	142.9p	143.9p	-3.4
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Nov.*	291.0p	292.0p	4.4

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Oct.	977.0p	10,381.3p	-31.0
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Nov.*	11,208	94,294	-26.5

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Oct.	2,970	35,327	8.5
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Oct.*	30.5	307.3	-0.6
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Sept.	6,866.7	71,850.8	1.2
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Sept.	7.2p	67.6p	-14.5

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Oct.	6,722p	70,316p	1.1
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Oct.	5,179p	56,388p	-12.9

### PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Nov.	16.3p	186.4p	-12.1
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Sept.	958.0p	9,576.5p	-17.6

### SALES

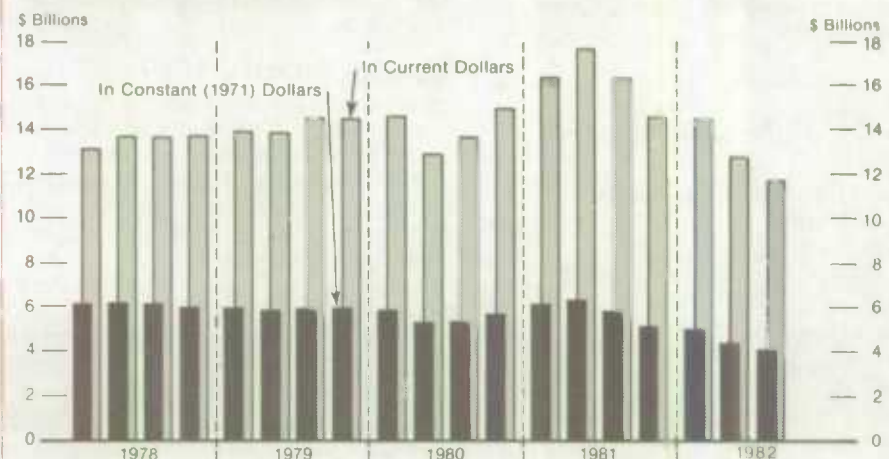
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	859.1	7,524.5	-1.5
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Oct.	15,256.7p	153,373.6p	-3.3
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	733.6	8,329.3	-18.0
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	8,300.4p	78,252.3p	2.8

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

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

## Residential Construction Expenditures

Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



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

manufacturers' by 33%. Office and store machinery manufacturers also posted a notable 20% production decrease in October.

Air transport was down in October by 8%; output in the industry began to drop in January and has increased in only three of the first 10 months in 1982. As well, rail transport, water transport, truck transport, and pipeline transport all declined in October.

Following the October decrease of 0.8%, retail trade output is more than 8% below its June 1981 peak; almost all of the latest month's decrease reflected a drop of 11% for motor vehicle dealers. Output of motor vehicle dealers has dropped 31% since its most recent peak in November 1981. Department stores also registered a decline in October.

For further information, order the October 1982 issue of *Gross Domestic Product* (61-005, \$3/\$30), or contact R. Martel (613-995-0568), *Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9*.

## New Housing Price Indexes

The Canada composite new housing price index (1976=100) moved down 0.4% to 129.7 in November 1982 from 130.2 in October, the 11th consecutive monthly decline in the index which stood 3.4% lower than the year-earlier level of 134.3.

Compared with October, only marginal increases were registered in new housing prices across Canada, advances ranging from 0.4% in Quebec City and Regina to 0.6% in Kitchener. The largest price decreases were posted in Edmonton (-2.2%), Windsor (-1.0%) and Vancouver (-0.9%); price declines were also noted in Montreal (-0.4%), Toronto (-0.4%) and Victoria (-0.2%).

On a year-over-year basis, the largest increase recorded in new housing prices was for Hamilton at 11.1%; other increases ranged from 0.6% in St. Catharines-Niagara to 7.5% in Winnipeg. The largest year-over-year decreases occurred in Vancouver (-18.0%) and Victoria (-16.3%); other decreases ranged from -0.5% in London to -8.4% in Edmonton.

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

## Publications

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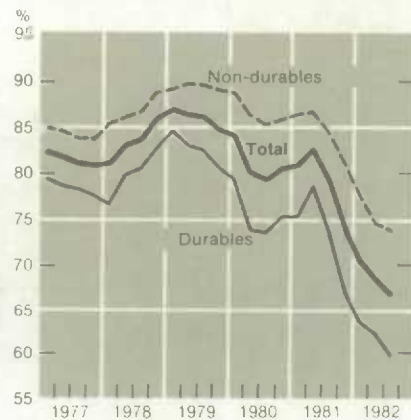
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## Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing



Source: *Statistics Canada, Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing (31-003)*

## Raw Materials Price Index

The Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100) in November 1982 remained unchanged from its revised October level of 200.9, but was up 4.0% from the year-earlier level of 193.2. The index excluding coal, oil and natural gas continued its declining trend, decreasing 0.7% in November to a level 3.4% below that of November 1981.

Among the components, the largest increase registered in November was for vegetable products — up 3.4%, largely due to increases of 6% for grains and 7% for oilseeds. Prices increased across the board in response to supply cutbacks by U.S. producers, themselves responding to low prices. Despite the latest monthly increase, the vegetable products component was still 13.1% below its level of a year earlier.

The index for coal, oil and natural gas was up 0.5% in November as prices for natural gas rose in some parts of the country. The index was 10.3% higher in November 1982 than a year earlier, a rate of increase substantially lower than had prevailed earlier in 1982. Crude oil prices increased about 8% over the most recent 12 months, and natural gas prices climbed nearly 25%.

## School Boards, 1980

Expenditures by school boards in Canada rose by 10.6% in 1980 to reach a total of \$12.4 billion. School boards account for approximately 55% of all education expenditures, employ 80% of all full-time teachers and provide education to 85% of all full-time students.

Provincial and municipal governments provided 97% of school board revenues in 1980. Teachers' salaries continue to be the largest expense item (60% of overall expenditures).

For further information, order the *Education Statistics Service Bulletin* (81-002, \$1.50/\$15), Vol. 4, No. 9, or contact Louis Pierre (613-995-9795).

## Capacity Utilization Rates

Capacity utilization in Canadian manufacturing industries continued to decline in the third quarter of 1982. The drop for total manufacturing industries was 2.5% to 66.9% in the third quarter from 68.6% in the previous quarter. Durable manufacturing industries showed a decline of 4.0% to 59.9% from 62.4%, while the rate for non-durable manufacturing industries was 74.0%, down 1.1% from 74.8% in the second quarter.

Data users should note that the statistics presented here are estimates and not operating ratios based on either engineering measures — such as productive machine hours — or survey results. In addition, it should be noted that the indexes are preliminary and could be revised as final statistics on production, investment and prices become available. A description of the methodology used to derive the rates is given in the publication *Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing* (31-003, \$5/\$20).

For further information, contact P. Koumanakos (613-995-4219), *Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9*.

## Industry Selling Price Index

The Industry Selling Price Index for manufacturing (1971=100) declined 0.3% to a preliminary level of 291.0 in November 1982 from 292.0 (revised) in October. The year-over-year rise of 4.4% was the smallest recorded since November 1976.

The paper and allied industries component index fell 2.6% in November to a level 3.3% lower than a year earlier. The monthly decrease was largely due to a 7.2% price drop for white newsprint in rolls. Newsprint prices have fallen steadily since July 1982 and are now at the same level as in June 1981, a decline due to the general weakness of world markets.

The food and beverage industries price index slipped 0.4% in November but remained 4.7% higher than a year earlier. The main contributor to this one-month decrease was the slaughtering and meat processors index, which fell 2.6% because of lower pork prices; beef and veal prices also declined, but to a lesser extent.

The primary metals index was down by 0.6% in November and 1.7% from the previous year. The month-to-month movement was primarily due to a 1.4% drop in the smelting and refining index, the combined result of a rise in the copper index and declines in the indexes for lead, precious metals and cobalt.

The wood industries price index was up 0.3% in November and 2.6% from the level of a year earlier.

The non-metallic mineral products index was up a slight 0.1% in November but a whopping 11.5% over the corresponding period of the previous year.

For further information, order the *November 1982 issue of Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$3.50/\$35), or contact the *Information Unit* (613-995-5738), *Prices Division*.

## Foreign Trade/Automotive

Canada's surplus on trade in automotive products with the United States during the first nine months of 1982 reached a record level of \$1.6 billion, a dramatic turnaround from the deficit of \$2.1 billion posted for the corresponding period in 1981. This marked the end of a deficit situation for this country that had prevailed since 1973. The improved performance is attributable to a tripling of the motor vehicle surplus in relation to the year-earlier period, while the deficit on parts increased by only 3%. Exports were up 37%, while imports fell by 3%, despite an increase of 12% in parts imports.

On a unit basis, exports to the United States of passenger cars classified by car size based on interior volume (including station wagons) were up 145,000 units, while imports were down 125,000 units. This situation is attributable to an increase of 310% or 215,000 units in the surplus on automobiles of 110 cubic feet or more, and a decrease of 50% or 55,000 units in the small car deficit.

### Trade with Overseas Countries

The deficit on trade in automotive products with overseas countries was up \$145 million to \$500 million in the first nine months of 1982, an increase of 40%, as exports declined more rapidly (-18%) than imports (-5%). The weakening of exports is largely attributable to passenger cars and parts, while the drop of 9% recorded for imported cars was partly offset by an increase of 19% for trucks and 10% for parts.

To date in 1982, passenger car imports have fallen 26% or 154,000 units compared to the same period in 1981. A sharp decline of 32% or 125,000 units in imports from the United States is largely responsible for this drop, while imports from Japan also fell, but to a lesser extent, experiencing a decline of 17% or 28,000 units. It is interesting to note the strong growth in imports of French cars — up 91% or 6,000 units — which offset a decline of 47% or 6,000 units imported from "Other Countries".

For further information, contact Gordon Blaney (613-995-6305) or François Bordé (613-995-6115), External Trade Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 1Z9.

## Electric Power Statistics

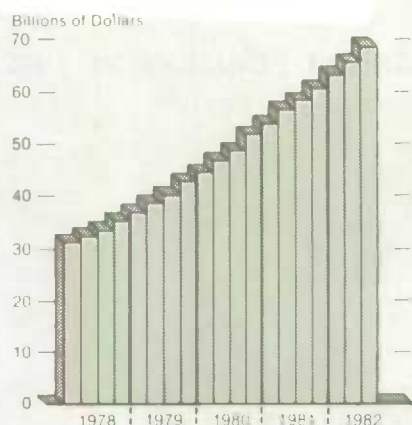
Net generation of electricity in Canada dropped 4.2% to 30 543 gigawatt hours in October 1982 from 31 878 GW.h a year earlier. Exports of electric power increased to 3 647 GW.h from 3 217 GW.h and imports were up to 140 GW.h from 137 GW.h.

For the first 10 months of 1982, net generation of electricity declined 0.6% to 307 284 GW.h from 309 278 GW.h in the January-October 1981 period. Exports declined to 27 721 GW.h from 28 901 GW.h, while imports rose to 2 549 GW.h from 2 314 GW.h.

For further information, order the October 1982 issue of *Electric Power Statistics* (57-001, \$2.50/\$25), or contact Dave Madsen (613-996-3139).

## Trusted Pension Funds

Quarterly Estimates of Assets Held



Source: Statistics Canada, Quarterly Estimates of TruSted Pension Funds (74-001)

## Energy Statistics

Preliminary figures show that Canadian exports of crude petroleum rose to a level of 9 966 megalitres during January-October 1982, up 24.9% from the same period of 1981 and surpassing the annual total reported in 1981. Imports over the same period dropped significantly by 32.2% to 17 000 ML. This drop is attributable to lower production by Canadian refineries and the substitution of domestic crude for imported oil in refineries in Eastern Canada.

Production of crude petroleum and equivalent hydrocarbons was up 9.2% from a year earlier in October 1982. Production levels were down by 12.5% from the year-earlier period during the first five months of 1982 but this trend was reversed in June with each subsequent month registering year-over-year increases, resulting in a 6.1% increase for the period June to October. In total, crude petroleum production decreased by 3.6% for the first 10 months of 1982 compared with 1981.

For further information, contact Don Wilson or Mike Valiquette (613-996-3139), Energy and Minerals Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Railway Employment, 1981

Employment in the Canadian railway industry in 1981 (excluding those engaged in express, highway transport, telecommunications, hotels and other non-railway activities) averaged 108,031 persons, a 2.7% decrease from 1980.

Compensation paid to railway employees during the latest year amounted to \$2,619.2 million, up 10.1% from 1980.

Railway employees averaged \$24,245 per annum in 1981, up 13.1% over 1980. The average hourly wage rate of \$11.24 represented a gain of \$1.34 or 13.5%.

For further information, order *Railway Transport, Part VI, 1981* (52-212, \$4.50), or contact J. Bustros (613-996-9271).

## Current Economic Analysis

The rate at which the Canadian economy is falling appears to have slowed down in the third quarter of 1982. At the same time, inflation and interest rates have declined substantially. Economic recovery however, will depend upon major sectors of the economy that have not yet improved significantly, in spite of the lower inflation and interest rates. Most importantly for the near-term, consumer demand has remained weak and business inventories remain at high levels relative to sales. The resulting incentive for firms to implement further layoffs can only reinforce the already pessimistic consumer mood. External demand had recovered somewhat through the spring and summer months, but the faltering U.S. economy and weak demand throughout the Western industrialized nations have led to a renewed decline in external demand. Business expenditures on plant and equipment remain depressed. Residential construction is the only major sector of the economy that has exhibited any signs of recovery in the past few months.

- **Real gross national expenditure** declined 1.0% in the third quarter, compared to an average of about 2.0% in the first two quarters.

- **Real Domestic Product** declined by 0.9% in September following a brief upturn in August. Manufacturing output retreated by 4.8% in September, as the auto industry began to retrench anew in line with most other durable goods industries.

- The indicators of **personal expenditure** on retail goods declined by 0.2% in volume in September. The weakness was most prevalent in semi-durable goods, off 2.0%. Sales of durable goods have stabilized since May, although demand for consumer credit continues to weaken.

- The **Labour Force Survey** recorded a 0.5% decline in employment in November as job losses have slowed in the last three months due to an upturn in service industries. Employment declines were increasingly concentrated in goods-producing industries, notably manufacturing, and among family heads. A decline in the labour force served to hold the unemployment rate at 12.7% in November.

- **Wage settlements** negotiated in the third quarter continued to moderate in most sectors of the economy from the peak rates of increase recorded in the fourth quarter of 1981. Wage settlements eased to 8.8% from 11.8% at annual rates, with the most marked declines evident in agreements with COLA clauses in the commercial sector.

- **Housing starts** recovered from a trough of 86,000 units in August to 108,000 in September and 131,000 in October. Lower mortgage rates, coupled with numerous government aid programs, have boosted starts of single homes by 16,000 units since August. The recovery for multiple units has been more hesitant, as the vacancy rate for new multiple units continues to increase.



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Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, October 1982	62-003	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry, October 1982	23-003	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
<b>BALANCE OF PAYMENTS</b>			
Canada's International Investment Position, 1978	67-202	\$8	\$9.60
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Agriculture: Horticultural Crops, 1981 Census of Canada	96-913	\$7.50	\$9
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<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>			
Housing Starts and Completions, October 1982	64-002	\$3/\$30	\$3.60/\$36
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Gas Utilities, September 1982	55-002	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, November 1982	32-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Oil Pipe Line Transport, September 1982	55-001	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
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Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, November 1982	32-022	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder, November 1982	32-024	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Shipments of Floor Tiles, November 1982	47-001	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe, Tubing and Fittings, October 1982	41-011	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
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New Motor Vehicle Sales, October 1982	63-007	\$2.50/\$25	\$3/\$30
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Wholesale Trade, October 1982	63-008	\$1.50/\$15	\$1.80/\$18
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