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Weekly Bulletin

October 21, 1983

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada stood at 118.5 (1981=100) in September 1983, unchanged from the level registered in August. The year-over-year increase, comparing the index level of September 1983 to that of September 1982, decelerated to 5.0%, compared to the rise of 5.5% observed between August 1982 and August 1983. The latest year-over-year change is the smallest increase recorded in consumer prices since the 4.7% rise in August 1972.

In the latest month, declines in food prices and transportation costs offset price increases in all of the other major components. Food prices, which had declined marginally in August, fell by 1.0% in September, the largest monthly decline in food prices since September 1978. The all-items-excluding-food index advanced by 0.3% between August and September, down from the rise of 0.6% registered in August.

The decline in the food-purchased-from-stores index of 1.4% was largely due to seasonally lower prices for fresh vegetables. In September, the index stood 2.0% above its level of a year earlier. The food-purchased-from-restaurants index increased 0.3% and stood 4.1% above its level of September 1982. As a result, the aggregate food index advanced 2.6% over its level of September 1982.

(continued on next page)

Retail Trade

Preliminary estimates show retail trade in Canada totalled \$8,853.9 million in August 1983, up 11.2% over August 1982. Among the 28 kinds of businesses surveyed, sales increases were posted by all except specialty shoe stores (-6.3%), with the largest gains reported by furniture, TV, radio and appliance stores (+50.4%), household furniture stores (+44.4%) and household appliance stores (+38.6%). The temporary sales tax exemption on furniture and appliances in Ontario again provided the major impetus for these increases. Even though all provinces and territories reported sales increases from a year earlier, with gains ranging from 17.3% in Nova Scotia to 5.1% in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, Ontario (with an increase of 13.5% over August 1982) led the provinces by

(continued on next page)

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	July	389.65p	390.49r	
Labour Income (\$ million)	June	18,728.8p	17,717.9p	4.8
Persons with Jobs (million)	Sept	10.87	11.18	3.1
Unemployed	Sept	1,257,000	1,365,000	-6.4

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Aug*	3,213.6	3,136.8	10.2
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	July	29,506.3p	29,714.0r	-13.4

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	July	15,384.9p	17,982.0r	11.6
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	July	16,316.5p	16,289.7r	-3.9

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Sept.*	118.5	118.5	5.0
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Aug.	131.0	130.4	-0.5
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Aug.	212.1p	210.2p	4.8
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Aug.	155.0p	151.5p	5.5
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Aug.	300.7p	300.1p	3.6

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	July	1,020.9p	8,213.5p	12.3
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Aug.	9,154	94,582	39.8

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	July	2,838.9	24,414.5	-4.5
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	July*	29.2	224.5	1.3
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	June	6,485.6	47,909.6	-6.6
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Aug.*	7.7p	54.8p	-8.6

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Aug.	7,027p	57,937p	3.0
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Aug.	5,973p	46,563p	2.5

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Aug.	18.0p	131.8p	-5.1
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Aug.	1,093.4p	8,074.0p	-6.7

SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	850.9	6,215.5	7.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	July	15,358.1p	112,004.6p	4.3
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	1,002.6	8,027.0	17.9
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Aug.*	8,853.9p	66,379.9p	6.8

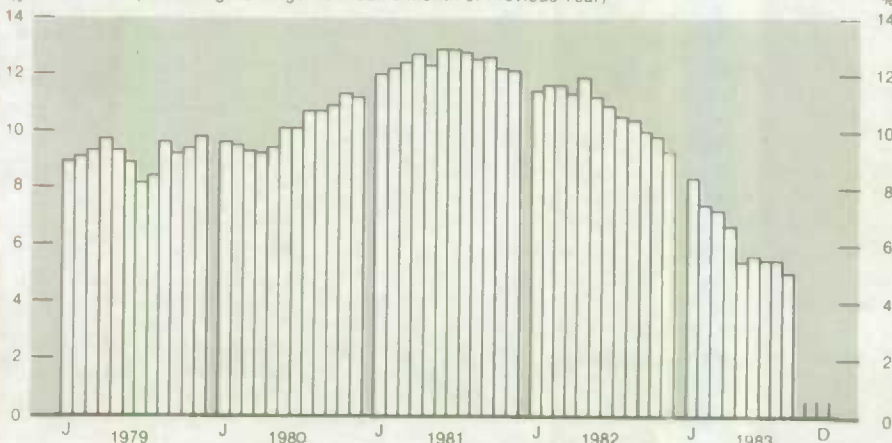
Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

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

Consumer Price Index for Canada (CPI)

(1981=100)

(Percentage Change from Same Month of Previous Year)



Source: Statistics Canada, The Consumer Price Index (62-001)

...Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The increase of 0.3% in the all-items-excluding-food index was largely attributable to higher prices for tobacco and alcohol products, increased telephone charges in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario and to higher university tuition fees in all provinces except Quebec. Between September 1982 and September 1983, the all-items-excluding-food index advanced 5.6%, down from the 6.3% increase registered between August 1982 and August 1983.

Viewed in terms of goods and services, the price level for goods declined by 0.1% while that for services increased by 0.1%. As a result, between September 1982 and September 1983, the price level for goods increased 4.6% while that for services increased 5.5%.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the all-items index advanced by 0.2%; this comprised a decline of 0.2% in the food index and an advance of 0.2% in the all-items-excluding-food index.

For further information, order the September 1983 issue of *The Consumer Price Index* (62-001, \$2.65/\$26.50), or contact Sandra Shadlock or Suzanne Gratton (613-995-4078), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

...Retail Trade

contributing 43.6% or \$391.1 million to the total increase of \$898.0 million at the Canada level. At the metropolitan area level (for which data are published), sales were higher in Toronto (+15.6%), Winnipeg (+13.5%), Vancouver (+7.6%) and Montreal (+3.6%).

Revised total retail sales for July 1983 were \$8,985.0 million, an increase of 6.6% over July 1982.

Cumulative sales for the first eight months of 1983 amounted to \$66,379.9 million, up 6.8% over the January-August 1982 period.

Seasonally Adjusted

Seasonally adjusted retail sales of \$8,794.1 million in August 1983 decreased 1.6% from the preceding month's revised total of \$8,937.7 million. The largest sales decreases were recorded by household appliance stores (-9.5%), family clothing stores (-8.1%) and book and stationery stores (-6.6%), while the biggest increases were reported for sporting goods and accessories stores (+7.7%), general merchandise stores (+3.9%) and hardware stores (+2.6%).

Compared to the preceding month, seasonally adjusted retail sales were down in August in nine provinces, with decreases ranging from -5.2% in Prince Edward Island to -0.8% in British Columbia. Only Alberta reported an increase in sales (+0.2%). Retail sales were down in Montreal (-1.4%), Toronto (-2.2%) and Vancouver (-1.2%) while sales remained unchanged in Winnipeg.

For further information, order the August 1983 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, \$3.70/\$37).

Exports of Newsprint Paper



Refined Petroleum Products

Preliminary data show net sales in Canada of all refined petroleum products amounted to 7 091.8 thousand cubic metres in August 1983, down 4.3% from 7 410.5 thousand cubic metres a year earlier.

Canadian refineries produced 7 677.9 thousand cubic metres of refined petroleum products in the latest month, a decrease of 7.7% from 8 323.0 thousand cubic metres in August 1982.

See the August 1983 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, \$3.70/\$37).

Gas Utilities

Preliminary data show sales of natural gas in Canada amounted to 2 096 million cubic metres in July 1983, up 8.7% from 1 929 million cubic metres a year earlier.

Exports to the United States were reported at 1 196 million cubic metres in the latest month, down 20.5% from 1 505 million cubic metres in July 1982.

Leading Indicator of Construction Activity in Canada

The filtered index of total building permit value (1971=100) — a leading indicator of future building expenditures — registered a month-to-month decline of 2.2% to 88.0 in June 1983. This drop, the third consecutive one, was attributable to a further softening of residential construction intentions. However, the June 1983 level was still up 5.9% from the June 1982 index, one of the lowest recorded during that year.

The residential building permits index decreased to 100.8 in June from 106.9 in May, reflecting a weakness in new rental projects authorized. On the other hand, the non-residential index picked up slightly to 71.1 in June, stimulated by commercial developments, particularly in Ontario. The industrial sector of construction remained weak at 53.6 in June; the stagnation in this sector is consistent with the under-utilization of industrial capacity which has prevailed for more than a year. Government construction plans remained stable at 70.9, a level comparable to the average of the past five years.

For further information, order the July 1983 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$3.70/\$37), or contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-995-8213), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9.

Non-residential Building Input Price Indexes

The Non-residential Building Construction Input Price Index for Canada (1971=100) decreased 0.1% in August 1983 to 302.4 from the revised July level of 302.6. Prices for most building materials were lower in August; the largest price decline was for lumber and lumber products (-3.3%), followed by decreases of -0.1% each for electrical equipment, concrete products, and plumbing and air conditioning equipment. In August the labour component showed no change from the revised level of 325.3 for July.

On a year-over-year basis — comparing August 1983 with August 1982 — the total Non-residential Building Construction Input Price Index increased 6.2%; labour costs rose 11.1% and building materials were up 1.5%.

For further information, order *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$3.15/\$31.50).

Campus Book Stores

Preliminary estimates show that retail sales of 216 campus book stores during the 1982-83 academic year increased 17.5% over the previous year to \$185.3 million. Employment of 1,639 persons in campus book stores during the last week of November 1982 was 4.1% higher than a year earlier, and the gross annual payroll expanded 16.7% to \$24.4 million.

Text books accounted for 66.3% of the total sales of campus book stores in 1982-83; other books, 9.0%; stationery and supplies, 14.5%; and miscellaneous items, 10.2%.

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Department Store Sales

Department store sales were \$850.9 million in August 1983, up 9.7% over August 1982. Sales were higher in 32 of the 40 departments with the largest increases for repairs and services (+40.8%), major appliances (+38.3%) and furniture (+38.3%).

All the provinces except the Yukon and Northwest Territories (-6.4%) showed department store sales increases in August from the same month a year earlier, with advances ranging from 2.8% in Alberta to 27.6% in Nova Scotia. The 10 metropolitan areas covered by this survey all reported sales increases, gains ranging from 0.9% in Calgary to 38.6% in Halifax-Dartmouth.

Sales by major department store organizations in August 1983 totalled \$529.0 million, up 10.1% from August 1982, while the junior department store organizations had sales of \$322.0 million, an increase of 9.0% from a year earlier.

Cumulative unadjusted sales for all department stores for the first eight months of 1983 totalled \$6,215.5 million, 7.1% higher than in the January-August 1982 period.

Seasonally Adjusted Sales

Adjusted for seasonal variations and number of trading days, total department store sales decreased 2.3% in August 1983 from the preceding month's sales to a level of \$907.4 million.

Stocks

The unadjusted selling value of department store inventories held in August 1983 showed an increase of 10.2% over the same month a year earlier to reach \$3,213.6 million. Seasonally adjusted, the value of stocks held rose 4.9% from the preceding month to a level of \$3,239.5 million.

For further information, order the August 1983 issue of *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (63-002, \$3.15/\$31.50), or contact Jean-Pierre Simard (613-996-9304), Retail Trade Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9.

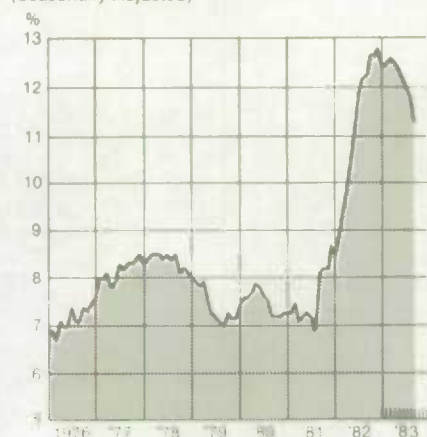
Security Transactions

Non-residents increased their holdings of outstanding Canadian securities — largely equities — in July 1983, producing a net capital inflow to Canada of \$16 million. The decline from the \$64 million net inflow of June was due to lower net purchases of outstanding Canadian bonds during the latest month.

On a net basis, there was virtually no change in resident holdings of outstanding foreign securities in July, the net inflow amounting to only \$4 million. Canadian residents reduced their holdings of foreign bonds (inflow of \$14 million) but increased their investment in equities (net outflow of \$10 million). This compared with a \$135 million net outflow in June, when residents increased substantially their holdings of

Unemployment Rate, Canada

(Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Statistics Canada, The Labour Force (71-001)

UIC Benefit Periods

The number of persons drawing some unemployment insurance benefits rose 28% in 1982 to 3.1 million from 2.4 million in 1981. The highest increases in beneficiaries were recorded in the Western provinces, especially in Alberta where the increase was 83%. Thirty-nine per cent of the beneficiaries were females, compared with 41% in 1981.

Benefit periods established in 1982 totalled 2.7 million, an increase of 26% from 1981. Some 33% of the periods were established by claimants under 25 years of age, 47% by those between the ages of 25 and 44 and the remaining 20% by those 45 years and older. A total of 12% of the benefit periods were for "special benefits" — mostly claimants seeking sickness and maternity benefits.

For benefit periods terminating in 1982, the average duration was 22.2 weeks, up from 19.7 weeks in 1981. By area, averages ranged from a high of 28.4 weeks in Newfoundland to a low of 15.0 weeks in Alberta. The established pattern of females remaining on claim longer than males continued: females averaged 23.0 weeks while males averaged 21.6 weeks. The average benefit per terminated claim rose 23% to \$2,947 in 1982 from \$2,389 in 1981; for males the increase was to \$3,181 from \$2,519 (+26%), while for females it was to \$2,586 from \$2,189 (+18%).

Detailed information will be published at a later date in *Benefit Periods Established and Terminated under the Unemployment Insurance Act* (catalogue 73-201). For additional information, contact Horst Stiebert or George Fincham (613-995-8445).

foreign securities, mainly United States equities.

For further information, order the July 1983 issue of *Security Transactions with Non-residents* (67-002, \$2.65/\$26.50), or contact John Motala (613-996-2545), Balance of Payments Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Farm Cash Receipts

Farm cash receipts for January-August 1983 totalled an estimated \$12,005.8 million, down 1.3% from the year-earlier level of \$12,158.5 million.

Receipts from the sale of field crops increased 2.1% in the latest period to \$5,567.4 million. Wheat, soybeans and corn were up, while receipts for rye, barley and potatoes showed a decrease from 1982.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products declined 1.1% from the January-August 1982 level to \$6,153.2 million.

Other cash receipts were down 58.6% to \$285.2 million from the year-earlier figure of \$486.9 million.

By province, farm cash receipts for the latest period were as follows, with January-August 1982 figures in brackets:

- Ontario, \$2,996.6 million (\$3,058.4 million)
- Saskatchewan, \$2,697.6 million (\$2,656.8 million)
- Alberta, \$2,397.0 million (\$2,566.7 million)
- Manitoba, \$1,092.7 million (\$1,035.0 million)
- British Columbia, \$523.5 million (\$567.2 million)
- Nova Scotia, \$151.2 million (\$146.8 million)
- New Brunswick, \$115.1 million (\$119.6 million)
- Prince Edward Island, \$106.9 million (\$111.3 million)
- Newfoundland, \$20.9 million (\$21.8 million).

For further information, order the January-August 1983 issue of *Farm Cash Receipts* (21-001, \$1.55/\$15.50), or contact John Lanthier (613-995-4895), Agriculture Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Prices of Farm Products

The Canada index number of farm prices of agricultural products (1971=100) at 282.4 in August 1983 was up 0.5% from the July number of 281.0 but 3.7% lower than the August 1982 level of 292.9.

The index, which measures — as closely as can be determined — prices received by producers at the farm gate, is available on CAN-SIM (matrix 176) or in the publication *Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products* (62-003, \$1.55/\$15.50). Sub-indices for livestock, crops and their components and further information are available from Marilyn Kapitany (613-995-4895), Farm Income and Prices Section, Agriculture Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Tobacco Products

Domestic production of cigarettes in September 1983 declined to 5.6 billion from the 6.5 billion produced a year earlier.

Production of cigars declined to 32.7 million in the latest month from 39.4 million in September 1982.

For further information, order the September 1983 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products* (32-022, \$1.55/\$15.50), or contact Louis Bouchard (613-996-3226).

THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED OCTOBER 14 — 20

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Security Transactions with Non-residents, June 1983	67-002	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
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Cheques Cashed, August 1983	61-001	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
CENSUS			
Census Tracts: Population, Occupied Private Dwellings, Private Households and Census and Economic Families in Private Households — Selected Social and Economic Characteristics, Ottawa-Hull, 1981 Census of Canada	95-962	\$9.50	\$11.40
Census Tracts: Population, Occupied Private Dwellings, Private Households and Census and Economic Families in Private Households — Selected Social and Economic Characteristics, Prince George, 1981 Census of Canada	95-964	\$5.50	\$6.60
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Service Bulletin			
Education Statistics — Vol. 5, No. 6, Employment of Ph.D. Graduates, 1970-1982	81-002	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
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Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, July 1983	35-003	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
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