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Weekly Bulletin



October 7, 1983

Canada's Merchandise Trade

On a seasonally adjusted balance-of-payments basis, preliminary results indicate that Canada's exports increased 5.6% to a level of \$7.8 billion in August 1983 after a 1.9% decrease in July and a 1.0% increase in June. Imports were up 8.9% to \$6.5 billion following a 0.2% decrease in July and a 3.9% increase in June.

As a result, the merchandise trade surplus narrowed by \$115 million to \$1.3 billion in August, after retracting by \$130 million in July and \$155 million in June. The merchandise trade surplus for January-August 1983 stood at a level of \$11.9 billion, \$0.5 billion higher than in the corresponding 1982 period. (The \$0.5 billion year-to-date gain may not hold up for the full year, however, since the surplus has declined each month since April 1983 to \$1.3 billion in August, while it averaged \$1.7 billion a month from September to December 1982.)

Commodity Analysis

The largest increases posted in August 1983 for exports, seasonally adjusted on a customs basis, were for passenger cars (up 20.0% or \$135 million to \$825 million, following a \$75 million decrease in July), motor vehicle parts (up 17% or \$90 million to \$620 million, after a \$70 million decrease in July), fabricated copper (up 135% or \$55

(continued on next page)

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	July*	389.65p	390.49r	
Labour Income (\$ million)	June	18,728.8p	17,717.9p	4.8
Persons with Jobs (million)	Aug	11.18	11.18	2.5
Unemployed	Aug	1,365,000	1,409,000	-1.7

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	July	3,136.8	2,981.4	4.3
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)	Aug	118.5	117.9	5.5
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)	June	29.1	195.3	0.1
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	June	6,485.6	47,909.6	-6.6
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	July	7.5p	47.0p	-9.7

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.	16.2p	130.0p	-6.0
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)	July	941.4	7,024.5	16.0
Retail Sales (\$ million)	July	9,024.6p	57,565.6p	6.3

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

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

Employment in Industry

Preliminary estimates show employment at the Canada industrial aggregate level dropped by 1.3% from June to July 1983. Major decreases in employment were registered in manufacturing, transportation and services. All regions recorded lower employment levels except Nova Scotia and the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Average weekly earnings at the Canada industrial level declined 0.2% to \$389.65 in July from \$390.49 in June. The most significant decreases in average weekly earnings occurred in manufacturing, trade and services. Quebec, British Columbia and Saskatchewan contributed largely to the overall decrease at the Canada level.

Detailed information for June and July will be published in the July 1983 issue of Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002, \$5.10/\$5.3), or may be obtained by calling the Labour Division (613-992-3868), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Average Weekly Earnings in Canadian Industry

July 1983*

Industry Division

Mining	\$607.25
Transportation, Communication and other Utilities	\$504.70
Forestry	\$502.12
Construction	\$489.61
Public Administration	\$485.10
Manufacturing	\$434.25
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	\$402.45
Industrial Aggregate	\$389.65
Communication, Business and Personal Services	\$352.01
Trade	\$280.89

Source: Statistics Canada, Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002)

* Preliminary Estimates

Canada

... Merchandise Trade

million to \$95 million following a \$60 million decrease in July) and for chemicals (up 18% or \$50 million to \$315 million).

The largest increases recorded in August 1983 imports were for aircraft and other transportation equipment (up 186% or \$320 million to \$495 million, following a \$40 million decrease in July), motor vehicle parts (up 19.5% or \$185 million to \$1,140 million, after a \$90 million increase in July), and for precious metals (up 50.0% or \$60 million to \$185 million). The largest decrease was for passenger cars (down 16.3% or \$80 million to \$420 million, following a \$45 million increase in July).

Trading Partner Analysis

Exports to "Other America" countries leaped 43% or \$95 million to \$315 million in August, and exports to the United States increased 1.7% or \$95 million to \$5,630 million, following a \$70 million increase in July.

The largest import increases recorded in August 1983 were for those from the United States (up 11.5% or \$520 million to \$5.0 billion) and for imports from "Other O.E.C.D." countries (up 113.5% or \$155 million to \$290 million).

For further information, order the August 1983 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, \$3.15/\$31.50), or contact François Bordé (613-995-6115), Trade Measures and Analysis Section.

Divorces, 1982

Canadian divorces totalled 70,436 in 1982, an increase of 4.1% from the number granted in the previous year.

The divorce rate per 100,000 population for Canada as a whole was 285.9 in 1982, while the rate per 100,000 married women 15 years of age and over was 1,164, an increase of about 3% from the previous year. (A decade ago, in 1972, the respective rates were 148.4 and 649.9 — slightly more than half the 1982 levels; the total number of divorces recorded in 1972 was 32,389.)

Alberta led all other provinces in the rate of divorce in 1982, while Newfoundland had the lowest rate among the provinces.

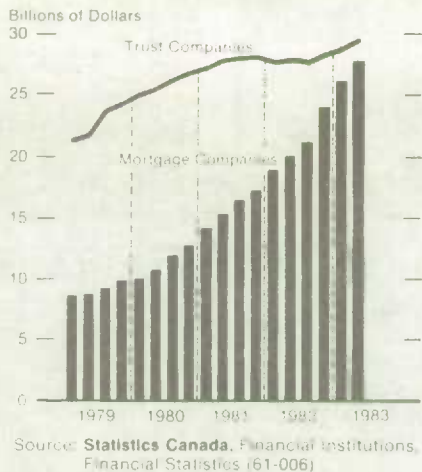
A demographic profile of Canadian divorces in 1982, shows that:

- The average age at time of divorce for men was 37.7 years and that for women was 35.0 years;
- One in two divorced men was older than 35.4 years, while one in two women was older than 33.0 years;
- Following the pattern of previous years, women petitioners outnumbered men almost two to one;
- In total there were in excess of 65,000 dependent children involved in the divorces granted in 1982. The number of children awarded in custody to mothers was in excess of 50,000 or 8 out of 10 dependent children;
- The average duration of marriages for those divorced in 1982 was 12 years; half the divorces had marriage duration of more than 10 years.

Detailed tabulations on divorce for 1982 will be published in *Vital Statistics, Volume II, Marriages and Divorces* (84-205).

Trust and Mortgage Companies

Quarterly Statements of Mortgages Outstanding



Industrial Production

Industrial production increased by 0.8% in July 1983 with the index (1971=100) rising to a level of 130.4 from 129.3 in June. Output in July for the mining, manufacturing and electric power, gas and water utilities sectors posted a jump of 11.8% from last December and stood 10.0% above the corresponding month in 1982. However, production still has to increase by another 8.7% to match the pre-recession peak reached in June 1981.

The July growth in industrial output was attributable mainly to increased production of wood and paper, which accounted for most of the 1.3% gain in manufacturing. Mining output declined 1.4%, while production of electric power, gas and water utilities remained unchanged during the month.

For further information, order the July 1983 issue of *Gross Domestic Product by Industry* (61-005, \$3.70/\$37), or contact Erika Young (613-995-0568), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9.

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Industry Selling Price Index

The Industry Selling Price Index (ISPI) for manufacturing (1971=100) reached a preliminary level of 300.7 in August 1983, up 0.2% from the revised level of 300.1 for July. The year-over-year rise was 3.6%, marking the eighth consecutive month in which the movement was between 3.3% and 3.8%.

In August, the food and beverage index rose 1.1% to stand 2.5% higher than a year earlier. Higher prices for chicken, poultry and turkey feed were largely responsible for the 5.0% jump in the feeds industry index. This and the 26.9% surge in the vegetable oil mills index were the leading factors in the group's advance.

The primary metals index was up 0.9% in August, 5.7% above its level of a year earlier. The main stimulus for the latest month's increase was a 2.3% advance in the smelting and refining index, chiefly in response to higher prices for non-ferrous base metals.

The petroleum and coal products index rose an estimated 0.5% in August, reflecting slightly higher gasoline prices. The group index was 9.3% higher than a year earlier, according to the latest estimates.

The wood industries index fell 4.7% in August, but was still up 13.4% from the August 1982 level. In the lumber industry, lower prices for spruce (-14.4%) and pine (-17.2%), as well as less dramatic decreases for hemlock and Douglas fir pushed the sawmills and planing mills index down by 7.9%.

For further information, order the August 1983 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$3.70/\$37).

Raw Materials Price Index

The Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100) posted a preliminary level of 212.1 in August 1983, up 0.9% from 210.2 (revised) in July and 4.8% higher than a year earlier. Excluding the coal, crude oil and natural gas component, the Raw Materials Price Index rose by 2.3% in August to stand 5.5% higher than in August 1982; this marked the largest increase recorded since June 1981.

The vegetable products component, which increased 10.4%, was the most important contributing factor in the August increase in the total index; the advance was attributable mainly to price increases for oilseeds (29.2%), fresh vegetables (30.7%) and grains (8.8%). With this latest monthly rise, the component index stood 24.0% higher than in August 1982.

A 0.9% August rise in the animals and animal products index reflected price increases for hogs and fish; a decline for cattle and calves only partly offset these increases.

A 2.1% monthly advance in the non-ferrous metals index was mainly caused by an overall price rise for base metals. The year-to-year increase in this group index continued its steady acceleration, standing 30.1% higher than the August 1982 level.

Household Facilities by Income/Other Characteristics

The report *Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics, 1982*, contains tables that relate 1982 household and dwelling characteristics, as well as facilities and equipment present, to the 1981 income of households. These estimates are based on surveys of approximately 36,000 households which were conducted in the spring of 1982.

Some highlights from the report are:

- The average household continued to decrease in size, reaching 2.85 persons per household in 1982 compared to 2.93 in 1980 and 3.33 in 1972.
- The proportion of households consisting of only one person increased to 19.7% in 1982, up from 18.4% in 1980 and 15.2% in 1972.
- The trend towards newer dwellings was greatest in rural areas, where 41.4% of households occupied dwellings built after 1969. By comparison, in population centres of 30,000 and over, 31.0% of households occupied dwellings constructed since 1969.

In addition to the regular series of tables published in this biennial report, this latest issue includes three tables containing special data collected in 1982 on the need for dwelling repairs and on recent repairs and energy improvements. These tables show:

- The need for repairs to dwellings decreased as income increased: 31.6% of households in the under \$8,000 household income group stated that their dwelling was in need of either major or minor repairs, compared to 24.3% of households in the \$35,000 and over category.
- In the three-year period preceding the survey, 22.4% of owners made major repairs to their dwellings; the incidence of major repairs was highest in the under \$8,000 group at 26.7%, decreasing to 20.7% for households whose income was \$35,000 and over.
- During the same three-year period, 50% of Canadian homeowners made energy improvements to their dwellings.

For more information, order *Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics, 1982* (catalogue 13-567, \$8.45). Enquiries regarding this publication should be directed to Penny Barclay or Cindy Veness (613-996-5294), Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9.

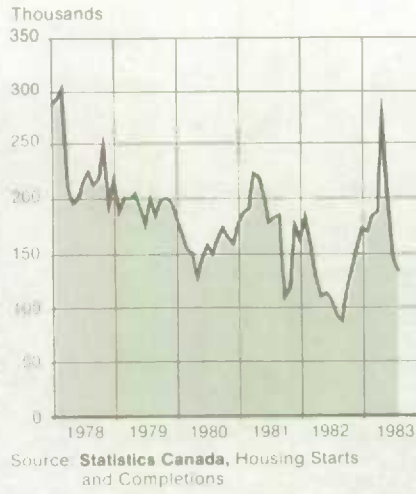
Urban Transit

Canadian urban transit systems (59) collected 94,644,113 initial passenger fares in August 1983. The total distance run was 56 345 168 kilometres and operating revenues amounted to \$54.4 million.

For further information, order the August 1983 issue of *Urban Transit* (53-003, \$1.85/\$15.50), or contact the head (613-995-1976), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Housing Starts in Canada

Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



New Housing Price Index

The Canada New Housing Price Index (1976=100) advanced 0.5% to 131.0 in August 1983 from 130.4 in July, the strongest monthly increase since January 1982. But the index still stands 0.5% lower than the year-earlier level of 131.6. In August, the estimated Canada "House Only" index increased 0.8% to 130.3 while the estimated "Land Only" index decreased 0.3% to 132.8.

Between July and August, the largest increases recorded in new housing prices were in St. John's (4.1%), Ottawa-Hull (2.1%), Montreal (1.8%), Quebec City (1.4%) and Regina (1.4%); other increases occurred in Kitchener (0.9%), Hamilton (0.4%), Toronto (0.3%), London (0.3%) and Thunder Bay (0.3%). Price decreases were again recorded in Edmonton (-1.1%) and Calgary (-0.2%), reflecting the depressed housing market in those two cities.

On a year-over-year basis — August 1983 compared to August 1982 — significant drops in the prices of new houses were recorded in Calgary (-14.9%) and Edmonton (-7.0%); smaller declines occurred in Toronto, Windsor and Saskatoon. The largest year-over-year increases were posted in Ottawa-Hull (11.0%), Quebec City (8.2%), St. Catharines-Niagara (7.5%), Montreal (6.4%), Kitchener (6.2%) and Thunder Bay (5.9%), with smaller advances recorded in Winnipeg, Regina, St. John's, Vancouver, London and Victoria.

For further information, order *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$3.15/\$31.50), or contact Prices Division (613-996-3744).

Railway Operating Statistics

The seven major railways in Canada reported a combined net income from operations of \$4.3 million in May 1983. Operating revenues of \$510.7 million were down 1.8% from the 1982 figure.

Revenue freight tonne-kilometres were down by 1.2% from a year earlier in May

Building Permits

Building permits activity remained weak in July 1983 when the value of proposed building construction rose 2.1% to a seasonally adjusted \$1,093.5 million from a revised \$1,070.7 million in June. In July 1982, the value of all building permits issued was estimated at \$1,064.2 million.

Residential permits recorded a 16.5% increase in value in July to a seasonally adjusted \$695.1 million from \$596.5 million in June. The increase mainly reflected an upturn in the number of single-detached homes authorized to 6,497 units from 4,924 in June; multiple dwellings also increased, but more moderately, to 5,129 units from 4,872.

The value of non-residential permits issued, which had shown a marked 30.8% year-to-year decline during the first six months of 1983, dropped 16.0% to \$398.4 million in July from \$474.2 million in June. By category, new projects authorized increased 29.0% in the commercial sector in July to \$212.2 million from \$164.4 million in June, but decreased 10.2% in the industrial category to \$61.1 million (\$68.0 million) and publicly-initiated projects dropped by nearly one-half in value (-48.2%) to \$125.2 million from \$241.8 million in June.

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

Residential Construction Input Price Index

The Residential Building Construction Input Price Index for Canada (1971=100) decreased 0.5% in August 1983 to 292.0 from 293.5 in July, marking the first decline in the index since August 1982. This reversal, which followed 11 consecutive monthly increases, resulted from a 0.9% drop to 273.7 in the building materials component index; sharp price declines reported by Ontario and Western manufacturers of lumber and wooden trusses were only partly offset by increases for ready-mix concrete, insulation and vinyl sheeting. The union wage rate index remained unchanged in August from the preceding month's level of 324.6.

Comparing August 1983 with August 1982, the Canada total index rose 11.7%; the rise reflected increases of 11.6% for building materials and 11.7% for labour.

For further information, order *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$3.15/\$31.50), or contact Prices Division (613-996-3744).

1983; freight train-kilometres decreased by 0.7% and freight car-kilometres by 0.3%. Average revenue per ton-kilometre of freight was 2.108 cents. Revenue passenger-kilometres decreased by 10.5% to 165.1 million.

For further information, order the May 1983 issue of *Railway Operating Statistics* (52-003, \$2.65/\$26.50).



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THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED SEPTEMBER 30 — OCTOBER 6

	Catalogue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE STATISTICS			
Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry, July 1983	23-003	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
Report on Fur Farms, 1982	23-208	\$4.75	\$5.70
Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, September 1983	32-012	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS			
Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments, Second Quarter of 1983	67-001	\$6.35/\$25.40	\$7.60/\$30.50
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Preliminary Unemployment Insurance Statistics, June 1983	73-001p	(N/C)	(N/C)
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Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers, August 1983	36-004	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers, August 1983	43-001	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Electric Power Statistics, June 1983	57-001	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation, August 1983	44-004	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
The Sugar Situation, August 1983	32-013	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Service Bulletin			
Fruit and Vegetable Preservation — Vol. 12, No. 1, Pack of Processed Asparagus, 1983	32-023	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES			
New Motor Vehicle Sales, July 1983	63-007	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
Retail Trade, July 1983	63-005	\$3.70/\$37	\$4.45/\$44.40
Wholesale Trade, July 1983	63-008	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
PRICES			
Industry Price Indexes, July 1983	62-011	\$3.70/\$37	\$4.45/\$44.40

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