

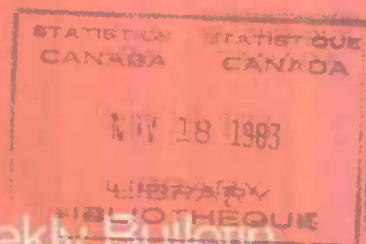


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Weekly Bulletin



November 18, 1983

## Retail Trade

Preliminary estimates show retail trade in Canada totalled \$8,858.7 million in September 1983, up 9.2% over September 1982. With the exception of garages, which showed a decrease of -1.2%, sales increases were recorded by all the remaining kinds of businesses, with the largest gains reported by household appliance stores (+36.1%), furniture, TV, radio and appliance stores (+26.9%) and household furniture stores (+21.5%). All provinces and territories reported sales increases from a year earlier, with gains ranging from 17.2% in Nova Scotia to 5.7% in Alberta. At the metropolitan area level (for which data are published), sales were higher in Winnipeg (+12.2%), Toronto (+11.2%), Vancouver (+5.9%) and Montreal (+2.3%).

Revised total retail sales for August 1983 were \$8,827.4 million, an increase of 10.9% from August 1982.

Cumulative sales for the first nine months of 1983 amounted to \$75,212.0 million, up 7.1% over the January-September 1982 period.

## Seasonally Adjusted Sales

Seasonally adjusted retail sales of \$8,770.9 million in September 1983 decreased 0.4%

(continued on next page)

## Leading Indicator of Construction Activity

The filtered index of construction (1971=100) — a leading indicator of construction activity — continued to decline in July 1983, dropping 1.3% to 88.7. Although there were encouraging signs of recovery in the non-residential sector, they were not sufficient to offset the decrease in residential construction intentions.

The index of residential projects pulled back 3.5% in July to a level of 100.4. Building intentions remained stable and relatively strong for single-detached homes, but appeared to be weak and hesitant for collective dwellings in spite of government aid programs. (In the residential sector, building intentions expressed by the filtered index lead construction activity by approximately 3.5 months.)

Building intentions in the non-residential sector continued to improve in July, with the index reaching a level of 73.1, up 2.5% from June. (The leading indicator of non-

(continued on next page)

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Aug	389.78p	389.28r	
Labour Income (\$ million)	July	18,784.8p	19,079.7p	6.9
Persons with Jobs (million)	Oct	10.82	10.87	2.9
Unemployed	Oct	1,238,000	1,257,000	-10.8

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Aug	3,213.6	3,136.8	10.2
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Aug	29,914.0p	29,532.0r	-11.3

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Aug	17,001.0p	15,410.8r	14.6
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Aug	16,828.9p	16,400.3r	1.5

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Sept	118.5	118.5	5.0
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Sept	131.3	131.0	0.5
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Sept	211.2p	212.3p	4.2
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Sept	153.2p	155.1p	-1.1
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Sept	300.6p	301.0p	2.8

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Aug	1,188.8p	9,531.2p	14.6
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Sept	9,904	104,486	41.2

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Aug	3,406.3	27,820.8	-3.6
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	July	29.2	224.5	1.3
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	July	6,573.9	54,483.1	-6.5
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Aug	7.7p	54.8p	-8.6

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Sept	7,719p	65,676p	3.0
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Sept	6,309p	52,741p	3.9

### PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Oct *	20.1p	170.7p	0.3
Steel Ingots — thousand tonnes	Oct *	1,230.1p	10,482.7p	0.9

### SALES

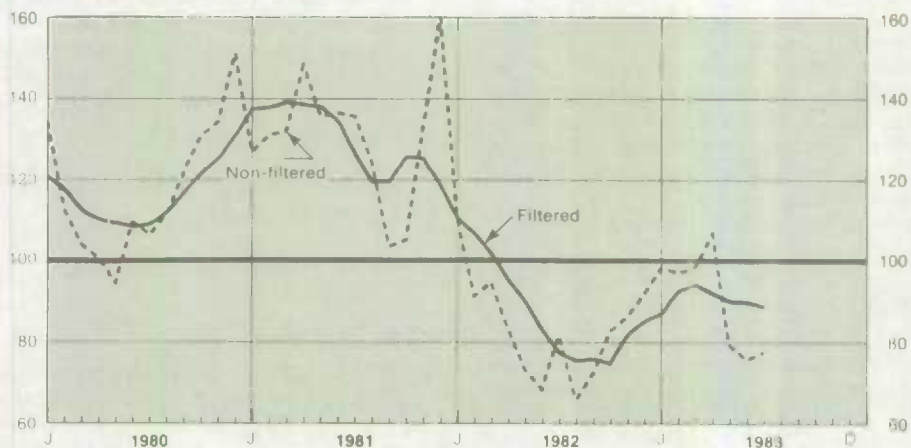
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Sept	922.1	7,137.6	7.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Aug	16,572.4p	128,519.1p	4.8
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Sept *	906.7	8,933.8	17.6
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Sept *	8,858.7p	75,212.0p	7.1

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

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

## Indexes of Construction Activity in Canada

1971=100



Source: Statistics Canada, Building Permits (64-001)

Canada

### ...Retail Trade

from the preceding month's revised total of \$8,805.4 million. Compared to the preceding month, seasonally adjusted sales were down in September in Saskatchewan (-2.7%) and Ontario (-2.2%); all the other provinces reported increases in sales, ranging from 4.8% in the Yukon and Northwest Territories to 0.4% in British Columbia. In metropolitan areas, retail sales were down in Montreal (-2.5%), Toronto (-2.4%), and Winnipeg (-0.1%), while sales increased in Vancouver (+0.8%).

For further information, order the September 1983 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, \$3.70/\$37), or contact Jean-Pierre Simard (613-996-9304), Retail Trade Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9.

### ...Construction Indicator

residential construction foresees the movement of expenditures on industrial, commercial and governmental buildings about eight months in advance. However, this time period could vary, depending on the type and size of projects undertaken.)

Construction investment intentions in the industrial sector strengthened during July, increasing 7.5% to a level of 58.6. The index of commercial construction, stimulated by plans for the construction of office buildings, continued to advance, reaching 82.5 in July. Government building construction plans were at 66.2 in July, a level slightly lower than the index for July 1982.

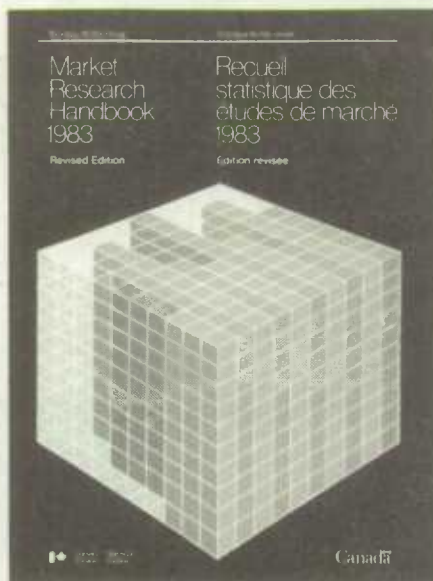
For additional information, order the August 1983 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$3.70/\$37), or contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-995-8213), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9.

### Security Transactions

Non-residents continued to acquire outstanding Canadian bonds in September 1983, producing a net capital inflow to Canada of \$113 million, some \$50 million more than in August. Geographically, the bulk of this investment continued to come from Japan, and to a lesser extent from the United Kingdom. For the first nine months of 1983, the value of Japan's net investment in outstanding Canadian bonds exceeded half a billion dollars, more than double the volume recorded in the same period of last year. During September, most of the net sales to non-residents consisted of provincial issues (including provincial enterprises). Trading with non-residents in outstanding Canadian equities resulted in a net inflow of \$23 million in September, in contrast to the net outflow of \$11 million in August.

Residents were net sellers of foreign equities in September, producing a net inflow of \$40 million.

For further information, order the September 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.



### Market Research Handbook 1983

The latest edition of a Statistics Canada popular reference source of Canadian marketing information is now available. This year's 803-page edition, complete with 278 tables and 45 charts, brings together an even wider range of updated statistical information, including a large selection of data derived from the 1981 Census.

Key data series in the publication include the consumption of Canadian goods and services, industry and consumer prices, employment, incomes and merchandising and services trades. For local market analysts, many of these series are available for Canada's 24 census metropolitan areas and 35 census agglomerations which represent more than 60% of Canada's population.

For anyone interested in assessing the dynamics of the market place, such as population growth, demographic trends, income distribution and changes in consumption patterns, the *Market Research Handbook*, 1983 is invaluable. Copies of the publication (catalogue 63-224) are available for \$31.80 in Canada or \$38.15 elsewhere.

### Gas Utilities

Preliminary data show sales of natural gas in Canada amounted to 2 079 million cubic metres in August 1983, a decrease of 1.1% from 2 103 million cubic metres a year earlier.

### Labour Force — Occupation Trends

Between 1971 and 1981, the experienced labour force grew by 39.2% in Canada. However, some occupations posted growth rates much higher than this national average: there were particularly large increases in supervisors: bookkeeping, account-recording and related occupations (157.3%), electrical engineers (78.2%), programmer analysts (171.7%), welfare and community service workers (151.5%), electronic data processing equipment operators (182.2%).

In other occupations, however, the number of workers decreased over the same period. For example, there were declines in street vendors and door-to-door sellers (-32.0%), pressers, apparel and furnishings service (-25.6%) and tailors and dressmakers (-38.5%).

Among males, motor vehicle mechanics and repairers (145,800), carpenters (130,515), farmers (206,515) and janitors (138,245) remain the largest occupational groups, though their growth rates were for the most part fairly moderate. Similarly, clerical, sales and teaching jobs are still the occupations of the majority of women: secretaries and stenographers (368,025), bookkeepers and accounting clerks (332,330), tellers and cashiers (229,325), elementary and kindergarten teachers (139,625) and sales clerks (commodities) (292,920).

For further information, order *Population Labour Force — Occupation Trends* (92-920, \$8.50), or contact Gilles Montigny (613-995-9381), Economic Characteristics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Non-residential Indexes

The Non-residential Building Construction Input Price Index for Canada declined 0.3% to 301.7 in September 1983 from the August level of 302.7 to stand 6.0% higher than in September 1982.

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## Farm Cash Receipts

Preliminary figures show farm cash receipts for the January-September 1983 period totalled an estimated \$13,798.2 million, down 2.8% from the year-earlier level of \$14,193.8 million.

Receipts from the sale of field crops rose 0.1% in the latest period to \$6,491.0 million from \$6,490.1 million in January-September 1982. Wheat, soybeans and corn were up, while receipts for rye, barley and potatoes showed a decrease.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products were estimated at \$6,973.5 million, down 3.1% from the January-September 1982 level of \$7,192.9 million.

Other cash receipts were down 34.7% to \$333.6 million from the year-earlier total of \$510.7 million.

For further information, order the January-September 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 286.5 in September 1983 was 0.7% higher than the August level of 284.5 but down 1.8% from 291.8 in September 1982.

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.

## Railway Operating Statistics

The seven major railways in Canada reported a combined net income from operations of \$65.5 million in July 1983. Operating revenues of \$579.4 million were up 22.2% from the 1982 figure.

Revenue freight tonne-kilometres were up by 3.2% from a year earlier in July 1983, freight train-kilometres increased 2.8% and freight car-kilometres 3.3%. Average revenue per tonne-kilometre of freight was 2.435 cents. Revenue passenger-kilometres decreased by 7.7% to 12.8 million.

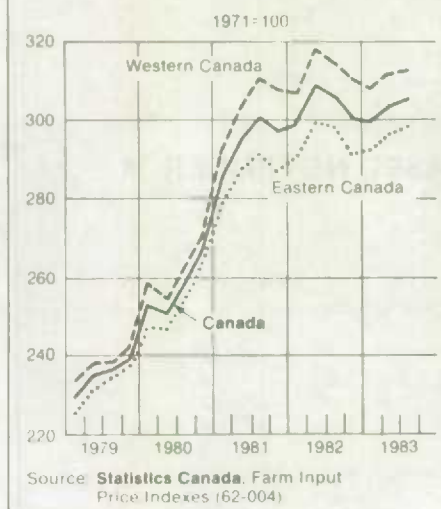
For further information, order the July 1983 issue of *Railway Operating Statistics* (52-003, \$2.65/\$26.50).

## Production of Raw Steel

Preliminary estimates show steel ingot production for the month of October 1983 totalled 1 230 113 tonnes, an increase of 52.0% from 809 214 tonnes a year earlier.

For further information, order the October 1983 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$2.65/\$26.50).

## Farm Input Price Indexes



## Help-wanted Index

The demand for labour in Canada — as measured by the Help-wanted Index — increased in October 1983 with the index (1981=100) advancing to 52 from 51 in September on a seasonally adjusted basis. The index now stands at its highest level since May 1982.

The help-wanted index for the Atlantic provinces rose to 123 in October from 65 in September, primarily due to a large government advertisement placed in the St. John's newspaper. The index for the Prairie provinces was up slightly in October, while the Quebec index remained unchanged and drops were recorded in both the Ontario and British Columbia indexes between these two months.

Inquiries about the index should be directed to Horst Stiebert (613-995-8445), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

## International Travel

Preliminary statistics for September 1983 show that United States residents visiting Canada increased by 5.3% from a year earlier to 3.2 million. Visitors from countries other than the U.S. dropped by 12.4% to 195,000. Canadian residents re-entering this country after a visit to the U.S. numbered 3.3 million, up 17.1% from September 1982, and residents returning from other countries increased by 22.5% to 168,000.

For the first nine months of 1983, total international travel flows were as follows: 26.9 million U.S. residents entered Canada, up 1.0% from the January-September 1982 period; visitors from other countries decreased by 12.0% to 1.5 million; Canadians returning from the U.S. increased by 17.6% to 30.6 million and Canadian re-entries from other countries numbered 1.4 million, up 14.3% from 1982.

For further information, order the September 1983 issue of *International Travel — Advance Information* (66-002, \$1.55/\$15.50), or contact Paul L. Paradis (613-995-0847), International Travel Section.

## New Motor Vehicle Sales

Total retail sales of all new motor vehicles (79,869 units) in September 1983 registered an increase (+5.1%) for the seventh consecutive month when compared to the same month in the previous year, despite a significant drop in sales of foreign manufactured motor vehicles. Sales of North American passenger cars climbed 26.6% to a total of 47,884 units and those of domestic commercial vehicles rose 36.0% to 15,073 units. Sales of new passenger cars manufactured overseas decreased by 39.5% from the same month a year earlier to 13,498 units, and those of overseas commercial vehicles dropped 28.2% to 3,414 units.

North American manufacturers captured 78.0% of new passenger car sales in September 1983 compared to 62.9% in September 1982. Japanese and European manufacturers took 17.6% and 4.4%, respectively, of the Canadian passenger car market in the latest month — substantial declines compared to shares last year of 29.4% and 7.7%.

Total dollar value of all new motor vehicles sold in September 1983 rose 15.3% from a year earlier to \$906.7 million. The value of North American passenger cars sold was \$514.1 million (up 41.6%) and commercial vehicles amounted to \$219.9 million (up 30.0%). Sales of overseas passenger cars fell by 33.8% to \$140.6 million and those of commercial vehicles decreased by 22.6% to \$32.1 million.

For the first nine months of 1983, cumulative unit sales of all new motor vehicles totalled 806,086 units (13.1% higher than in the same period last year) with a retail value of \$8,933.8 million (up 17.6%).

## Seasonally Adjusted Sales

Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, preliminary estimates of unit sales of passenger cars built in North America increased 7.9% from August 1983 while sales of passenger cars built overseas decreased 38.8%. Total sales of all new commercial vehicles (domestic and overseas manufactured) were 5.4% lower than in the preceding month.

For further information, order the September 1983 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007, \$2.65/\$26.50), or contact Jean-Pierre Simard (613-996-9304), Retail Trade Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9.

## Telephone Statistics

Canada's 13 major telephone systems reported revenues of \$715.1 million in September 1983, up 8.0% from a year earlier. Operating expenses increased 0.1% over the period to \$479.8 million. Net operating revenue at \$235.3 million showed an increase of 28.6% over September 1982.

For further information, order the September 1983 issue of *Telephone Statistics* (56-002, \$1.55/\$15.50), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271).



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## THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED NOVEMBER 14 — 17

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
<b>AGRICULTURE STATISTICS</b>			
Report on Livestock Surveys, Pigs, October 1, 1983	23-008	\$4.20/\$16.95	\$5.05/\$20.35
The Dairy Review, September 1983	23-001	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
<b>CENSUS</b>			
Population, Labour Force — Occupation Trends, 1981 Census of Canada	92-920	\$8.50	\$10.20
<b>DEMOGRAPHY</b>			
Estimates of Population for Canada and the Provinces, June 1, 1983	91-201	\$4.75	\$5.70
Intercensal Annual Estimates of Population by Marital Status, Age and Sex for Canada and the Provinces, 1976-1981	91-519	\$8.45	\$10.15
<b>INDUSTRY PRODUCT</b>			
Gross Domestic Product by Industry, August 1983	61-005	\$3.70/\$37	\$4.45/\$44.40
<b>LABOUR FORCE SURVEY</b>			
The Labour Force, October 1983	71-001	\$3.70/\$37	\$4.45/\$44.40
<b>MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES</b>			
Asphalt Roofing, September 1983	45-001	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Cement, September 1983	44-001	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Coal and Coke Statistics, August 1983	45-002	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
Confectionery, Quarter Ended September 1983	32-027	\$2.65/\$10.60	\$3.20/\$12.70
Footwear Statistics, September 1983	33-002	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Gas Utilities, July 1983	55-002	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
Gypsum Products, September 1983	44-003	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins, September 1983	46-002	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Production of Selected Biscuits, Quarter Ended September 1983	32-026	\$2.65/\$10.60	\$3.20/\$12.70
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, August 1983	35-002	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, August 1983	35-003	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
<b>Service Bulletins:</b>			
<b>Fruit and Vegetable Preservation</b> — Vol. 12, 1983: No. 3, Pack of Frozen Strawberries; No. 5, Pack of Processed Cherries	32-023	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
<b>MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES</b>			
Direct Selling in Canada, 1982	63-218	\$4.75	\$5.70
Market Research Handbook, 1983	63-224	\$31.80	\$38.15
Operating Results: Retail Drug Stores, 1981	63-607	\$7.40	\$8.90
<b>PRICES</b>			
Construction Price Statistics, October 1983	62-007	\$3.15/\$31.50	\$3.80/\$37.80
Industry Price Indexes, September 1983	62-011	\$3.70/\$37	\$4.45/\$44.40
<b>TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
Air Carrier Traffic at Canadian Airports, Fourth Quarter 1982	51-005	\$7.95/\$31.80	\$9.55/\$38.15
Railway Operating Statistics, May 1983	52-003	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
Telephone Statistics, 1982	56-203	\$6.35	\$7.60

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