

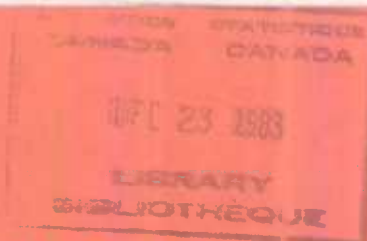


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Weekly Bulletin



December 23, 1983

Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada registered no change between October and November 1983, remaining at a level of 119.2 (1981=100). The year-over-year increase decelerated to 4.2%, the smallest increase recorded in consumer prices since the 4.0% rise registered in June 1972.

In November, a decline in food prices offset marginal price increases in the other six major components. Food prices, which had increased by 1.1% between September and October, declined by 0.5% in November. The rate of price increase registered in the all-items-excluding-food index decelerated to 0.2%, down from the 0.4% advance observed between September and October.

The November decline of 0.8% in the food-purchased-from-stores index was largely attributable to lower prices for fresh fruit, down 11.4% on average, and for certain beef and pork cuts. In November, the index stood 2.7% above its level of a year earlier. The food-purchased-from-restaurants index rose 0.2% and was 4.0% above its level of November 1982. As a result, the aggregate food index advanced 3.1% over its level of November 1982, down from the increase of 4.0% registered between October 1982 and October 1983.

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LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

		Aug.	Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Aug.	389.78p	389.28r	
Labour Income (\$ million)	Sept.	19,154.4p	18,659.8p	7.8
Persons with Jobs (million)	Nov.	10.71	10.82	3.4
Unemployed	Nov.	1,281,000	1,238,000	-10.9

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Oct.*	3,732.9	3,310.4	11.7
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Oct.*	30,534.8p	30,241.9r	-6.6

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Oct.*	18,090.8p	21,613.9r	21.5
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Oct.*	20,383.4p	20,432.1r	29.3

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Nov.*	119.2	119.2	4.2
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Oct.	131.4	131.3	0.9
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Oct.	211.1p	211.3p	5.1
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Oct.	152.9p	153.3p	6.2
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Oct.	301.7p	301.0p	3.3

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Sept.	1,113.3p	10,766.8p	14.5
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Oct.	9,285	113,771	36.9

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Sept.	4,081	31,900	-1.1
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Sept.	30.5	285.7	2.1
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Aug.	6,608.5	61,091.6	-6.0
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Oct.*	8.0p	71.0p	-5.3

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Oct.	8,180p	73,931p	4.9
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Oct.	7,021p	59,814p	6.8

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Nov.	19.6p	190.3p	2.5
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Oct.	1,230.1p	10,482.7p	0.9

SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	922.0	8,059.6	7.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Oct.*	18,139.5p	164,802.9p	6.9
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	1,164.2	10,098.0	21.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Oct.	9,003.8p	84,238.6p	7.3

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

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

Trusted Pension Funds

The book value of assets held in Canadian trusted pension funds totalled an estimated \$77.2 billion at the end of the second quarter of 1983, an increase of \$2.6 billion over the assets of the previous quarter and \$11.3 billion more than the amount held one year earlier.

Bonds, at 47.1% of total assets at June 30, 1983, continued to be the most prominent investment vehicle. Equity holdings at 23.4% were slightly higher in relative terms than in the previous quarter, whereas mortgages continued their slow decline to 8.6% of total assets.

Total income of trusted pension funds for the second quarter of 1983 amounted to \$3.5 billion. Investment income accounted for nearly 50% of this total, 8% consisted of net gains on sales of securities and virtually all the balance represented contributions by employees and employers. Out of this

(continued on next page)

Quarterly Estimates of Income and Expenditures of Trusted Pension Funds



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

Canada

...Consumer Price Index

The increase of 0.2% in the all-items-excluding-food index was largely attributable to higher 1984 new car prices which, after adjustment for quality change, rose an average 2.9% over the 1983 model car prices prevailing in October. Between November 1982 and November 1983, the all-items-excluding-food index advanced 4.6%, down from the 5.2% increase registered between October 1982 and October 1983.

Viewed in terms of goods and services, the price level for goods recorded no overall change from October while that for services advanced by 0.1%. As a result, between November 1982 and November 1983, the price level for goods increased 4.3%, while that for services advanced by 4.2%.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the all-items index declined 0.1%; this comprised a decline of 0.2% in the food index and a decline of 0.1% in the all-items-excluding-food index.

For further information, order the November 1983 issue of 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.

Refined Petroleum Products and Natural Gas

Preliminary figures show that in October 1983, sales of petroleum products by Canadian refiners and major distributors amounted to 6 708 000 cubic metres, up 1.9% from a year earlier. Sales of the main products were as follows: motor gasoline, 2 792 700 cubic metres (+0.9%); diesel fuel, 1 343 200 cubic metres (+14.5%); light fuel oil, 523 000 cubic metres (+0.6%) and heavy fuel oil, 626 200 cubic metres (-8.9%).

For the first 10 months of 1983, sales of refined petroleum products amounted to 64 147 533 cubic metres, down 8.6% from the level recorded during the same period of 1982.

Production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners in October 1983 amounted to 7 992 400 cubic metres, up 11.1% from October 1982. Year-to-date production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners amounted to 71 014 385 cubic metres, down 5.3% from the same period in 1982.

Natural Gas

During October 1983, sales of natural gas in Canada by main distributors amounted to 3 090 446 thousand cubic metres, up 5.3% from a year earlier. On the basis of rate structure information, sales were broken down as follows: residential sales, 616 016 thousand cubic metres (-6.8%); commercial sales, 553 251 thousand cubic metres (+1.7%) and industrial sales, 1 729 118 thousand cubic metres (+11.1%).

For the first 10 months of 1983, sales of natural gas amounted to 33 825 550 thousand cubic metres, down 4.4% from the level recorded in 1982.

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...Trusted Pension Funds

revenue, expenditures of \$936 million were met, leaving a net cash flow of nearly \$2.6 billion for the quarter.

Data users should note that these quarterly estimates are based on a survey of trustee pension funds having assets of \$50 million or more. The estimates for the fourth quarter of 1982 and the first quarter of 1983 have been revised; at the end of 1982 the revised assets totalled \$71.7 billion.

For further information, order the second quarter 1983 issue of Quarterly Estimates of Trustee Pension Funds (74-001, \$2.65/\$10.60), or contact Hubert Frenken (613-995-7165), Pensions Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product, in constant 1971 prices, rose 0.3% in October 1983 to \$120.3 billion at annual rates from \$119.9 billion in September. The October increase marked the eighth consecutive monthly gain. Industrial production advanced 0.6% during October. Most of GDP increase this month occurred in trade, manufacturing, and transportation; these gains were partly offset by declines in construction and forestry.

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

Industrial Production

Industrial production continued to increase in October 1983, rising by 0.6% to \$33.0 billion at annual rates from \$32.8 billion in September. The October increase followed production gains in each of the seven preceding months and it brought industrial output 16.0% above the low point set in December 1982.

Production gains were registered in October in mining (up 1.2%) and manufacturing (up 0.8%) while output of electric

Household Facilities/Equipment

The decline in oil as a principal home heating fuel is continuing, according to the latest Household Facilities and Equipment Survey. An estimated 28.3% of Canadian homes were heated by oil in May 1983, down from 30.7% in 1982 and 55.5% in 1973. Meanwhile, the proportion of homes using gas or electricity has risen steadily over the past decade: 44% of private homes now use gas (up from 43.4% in 1982 and 34.8% in 1973), and 23% of homes use electricity (up from 21.5% in 1982 and 7.0% in 1973).

Oil remains the leading heating fuel in the Atlantic region, used in over 70% of homes in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, in 53% of homes in New Brunswick and in 45% of homes in Newfoundland. In Quebec, 47% of homes are now electrically heated, surpassing for the first time the proportion of oil-heated homes in that province. Natural gas continues to be the leading fuel in Ontario and the West, supplying heat to 56% of Ontario homes, and to 97% of residences in Alberta.

The relative proportions of owner-occupied and rented dwellings have remained unchanged at about 63% and 37%, respectively. However, 50.3% of owner-occupied dwellings were mortgage-free in May 1983 compared to 45.1% in 1982.

Other findings of the May Survey of Household Facilities and Equipment:

- The proportion of households with supplementary heating equipment has declined slightly over the last two years, to 23.2% in 1983 from 25.3% in 1981.
- One-third of Canadian households own an automatic dishwasher, and more than 60% of these are built-in models.
- Households tend to be keeping their appliances longer: four out of 10 households now have a refrigerator manufactured over 10 years ago, compared to only 36% of households a year earlier.
- The proportion of households with cablevision converters has more than doubled to 26.7% in 1983 from 11.0% in 1979 (when data on them were last collected).
- Video recorders are present in 6.4% of Canadian households.
- Almost 28% of households have two or more automobiles, compared to 20.6% 10 years ago.
- In 1983, 58.9% of households have at least one automobile with an FM radio, up from 47.9% in 1981. In Newfoundland the proportion with an FM car radio increased to 42.0% in 1983 from 24.0% in 1981.

For further information, order the 1983 issue of Household Facilities and Equipment (64-202, \$6.35), or contact Cindy Veness (613-996-5294), Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9.

power, gas and water utilities declined 1.5%.

For further information, order the October 1983 issue of Gross Domestic Product by Industry (61-005, \$3.70/\$37), or contact Erika Young (613-995-0568).

Foreign Trade/Automotive

Canada posted a \$2.1 billion surplus on trade in automotive products with the United States during the first nine months of 1983, \$0.2 billion higher than in the corresponding period last year. However, on a year-over-year basis the quarterly surplus has been diminishing: the first quarter 1983 surplus of \$815 million was \$280 million higher than in 1982, the second quarter surplus at \$704 million was only \$85 million higher, and the third quarter surplus at \$610 million was \$140 million lower than in the corresponding period of 1982. (For the first nine months of 1981, Canada registered a \$2.1 billion deficit.)

The \$0.2 billion year-to-date increase in the surplus was mainly attributable to a \$0.6 billion reduction in the deficit on motor vehicle parts to \$3.2 billion that was partly offset by a \$0.3 billion reduction in the surplus on cars to \$2.9 billion. Imports of trucks and other motor vehicles were up 9% while exports increased less than 1%, leading to a \$40 million reduction in the surplus on trucks to \$2.3 billion.

Trade with Overseas Countries

Canada's deficit on trade in automotive products with overseas countries (customs basis) doubled to \$1.1 billion in January-September 1983, mainly as a result of a \$0.25 billion increase in the parts deficit and of a \$0.2 billion reduction in re-exports. Exports were down by nearly 50% while imports increased 5%.

Trade with the United States by Car Size

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 81,500 units, while imports climbed by 111,000. These increases were mainly attributable to small and intermediate cars and station wagons for exports, and to intermediate and large cars and station wagons for imports.

Sources of Canadian Passenger Car Imports

For the first nine months of 1983, imports of passenger cars from the United States were up 42% or 111,000 units to 378,000 units, while imports from Japan, West Germany, France and other countries all declined.

For further information, contact Gordon Blaney (613-995-6305) Trade Information Unit, or François Bordé (613-995-6115).

Motion Picture and Videotape Distribution, 1982

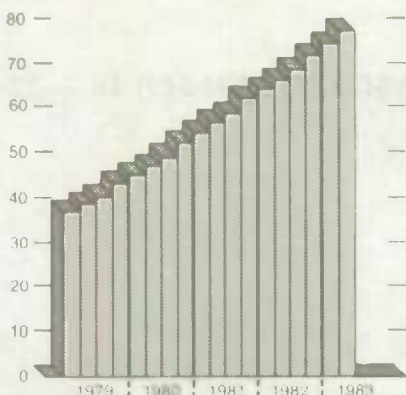
Motion picture and videotape distribution establishments (115) operating in Canada during 1982 reported revenues totalling \$288.2 million of which \$266.2 million was derived from the sale and rental of productions. Salaries and wages paid by these establishments to their 695 full-time and 98 part-time employees amounted to \$17.3 million.

For further information, contact S. Beyer (613-996-9301), Services Section, Merchandising and Services Division.

Trusteed Pension Funds

Quarterly Estimates of Assets Held

Billions of Dollars



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

Leading Indicator of Construction Activity

The filtered index of construction — a leading indicator of building activity — declined again in August 1983 for the fifth consecutive month. The index (1971=100) fell 2.0% from July to a level of 86.7 — a decline wholly attributable to weakness in the residential sector. Nevertheless, a gradual increase in the non-filtered version of the index suggests that the leading indicator is likely to become more stable in the fourth quarter.

The residential construction index decreased 4.6% in August to 95.4, strongly influenced by the extremely low level of building intentions for multiple dwellings — 42,800 units at seasonally adjusted annual rates, little changed from the pace observed in the deepest part of the recession. The level of single-detached homes remained relatively stable, comparable to pre-recession levels.

The trend of the non-residential construction index continued to move up in August, rising 2.5% to 74.9; this marked the third consecutive monthly gain for the index which had reached its trough last May. The industrial component of the non-residential index rose 4.9% from July to 61.7 in August; the rising utilization rate of industrial capacity suggests that the index of industrial construction will continue to progress. Building intentions in the commercial construction sector strengthened in August with the index rising 6.6% from July to 89.0; the commercial index has shown a steady rise since May, sustained by builders' plans for the construction of office buildings, shopping and recreational facilities. The institutional construction index declined 1.4% in August to a level of 63.8; this index is characterized by its irregular fluctuations, but August marks the lowest level for this year.

For additional information, order the September 1983 issue of Building Permits (64-001, \$3.70/\$37), or contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-995-8213).

Department Store Sales

Department store sales were \$922.0 million in October 1983, up 7.3% over October 1982. Sales were higher in 31 of the 40 departments with the largest increases for furs (+40.3%), toys and games (+25.6%) and plumbing, heating and building materials (+22.5%); the most notable decreases were recorded by sporting goods and luggage (-8.5%), piece goods (-8.4%) and hardware, paints, wallpaper, etc. (-7.6%).

All provinces except Alberta (-2.3%) and the Yukon and Northwest Territories (-6.7%) showed department store sales increases in October 1983 from the same month a year earlier, with advances ranging from 1.2% in British Columbia to 19.6% in Saskatchewan. Seven of the 10 metropolitan areas covered by the survey reported sales increases, ranging from 7.4% in Winnipeg to 16.8% in Ottawa-Hull.

Sales by major department store organizations in October 1983 totalled \$605.0 million, up 7.5% from October 1982. Junior department store organizations had sales of \$317.0 million, an increase of 6.9% from a year earlier.

Cumulative unadjusted sales for all department stores for the first 10 months of 1983 reached \$8,059.6 million, 7.1% higher than in the January-October 1982 period.

In October 1983, total department store sales constituted 10.2% of all retail sales in Canada, a slight decrease from the 10.4% share held in October 1982.

Stocks

The unadjusted selling value of inventories held by department stores in October 1983 at \$3,732.9 million showed an increase of 11.7% over the same month a year earlier. Seasonally adjusted, the value of stocks held decreased 11.9% from the preceding month to a level of \$3,123.7 million.

For further information, order the October 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.

Local Governments

Local governments across Canada employed an estimated 300,089 persons in general government services at the end of September 1983, down 3.6% from the 311,365 reported at the end of the preceding quarter, but an increase of 0.4% from the year-earlier level.

Gross payrolls of local governments for the third quarter of 1983 amounted to \$1,715,210,000, an increase of 7.0% over the \$1,602,579,000 reported for the preceding quarter and up 7.8% from the July-September 1982 period.

Data are presently available from matrices 2725 and 2726 of the CANSIM data bank and from the July-September 1983 issue of Local Government Employment (72-009, \$4.20/\$16.95), or contact the Employment and International Section (613-995-8201), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.



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