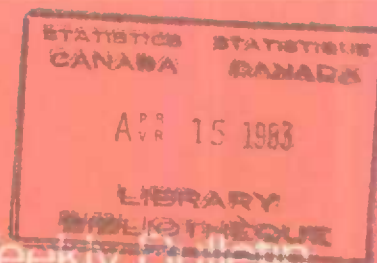


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Weekly Bulletin



April 15, 1983

## New Motor Vehicle Sales

Retail sales in Canada of all new motor vehicles totalled 61,693 units in February 1983, down by 9.0% from a year earlier and the lowest February total unit sales recorded since 1971. Sales of North American manufactured passenger cars declined 8.4% to 32,067 units, while domestic commercial vehicles dropped 28.6% to 10,275 units. Sales of passenger cars built overseas increased 8.1% over the previous year to 16,673 units, while overseas commercial vehicles decreased 10.2% to 2,678 units.

The share of the Canadian passenger car market taken by North American manufacturers in February 1983 was 65.8% compared to 69.4% in February 1982. Japanese manufacturers had 28.7% of the market and European manufacturers 5.5%, compared to percentages of 25.2% and 5.4% a year earlier.

Total value of new motor vehicles sold in February 1983 decreased 8.8% from the preceding year to \$681.0 million. North American passenger cars sold for \$340.8 million (down 4.9%) and commercial vehicles for \$148.6 million (down 31.2%). Sales of passenger cars from overseas increased 14.9% to \$167.0 million, while those of commercial vehicles decreased by 9.8% to \$24.6 million.

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

## Productivity Measures

Preliminary estimates of output per man-hour for all commercial industries show a decline of 0.6% in 1982 following a marginal increase of 0.3% in 1981 and a decline of 0.6% in 1980. Unit labour cost increased 11.4% in 1982 after increases of 10.0% in 1981 and 10.8% in 1980.

Output per man-hour in manufacturing declined 2.8% in 1982 following an increase of 0.7% in 1981 and a decline of 2.2% in 1980. Unit labour cost increased 14.2% in 1982 after increases of 10.3% in 1981 and 12.5% in 1980.

The decline in output in 1982 for both all commercial industries (-6.2%) and manufacturing (-12.3%) was the largest since (continued on next page)

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Jan.*	402 63p	398 64p	6.6
Labour Income (\$ million)	Dec.	16,410.3p	16,563.0p	2.8
Persons with Jobs (million)	Mar.*	10.24	10.14	-2.1
Unemployed	Mar.*	1,658,000	1,585,000	35.0

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Jan.	2,724.4	2,939.0	1.5
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Jan.	31,854.0p	31,341.4r	-6.5

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Jan.	14,241.8p	13,841.2r	4.5
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Jan.	16,752.3p	16,452.8r	-11.7

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Feb.	114.6	114.1	7.4
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Feb.*	129.5	129.5	-4.4
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Feb.	208.6p	206.8p	6.2
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Feb.	149.0p	146.0p	-0.5
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Feb.	293.6p	292.7p	3.6

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Jan.*	581.9p	581.9p	-23.5
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb.	6,661	15,175	-19.8

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Jan.	3 996	3 996	11.0
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Jan.	36.7	36.7	-7.8
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Dec.	9 924.6	98 764.0	0.8
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Jan.	7.2p	7.2p	-12.3

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Feb.*	6,661p	13,099p	2.2
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Feb.*	5,234p	10,367p	-1.2

### PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Feb.	14.0p	27.8p	-9.9
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Mar.*	1 079.7p	2 659.6p	-27.3

### SALES

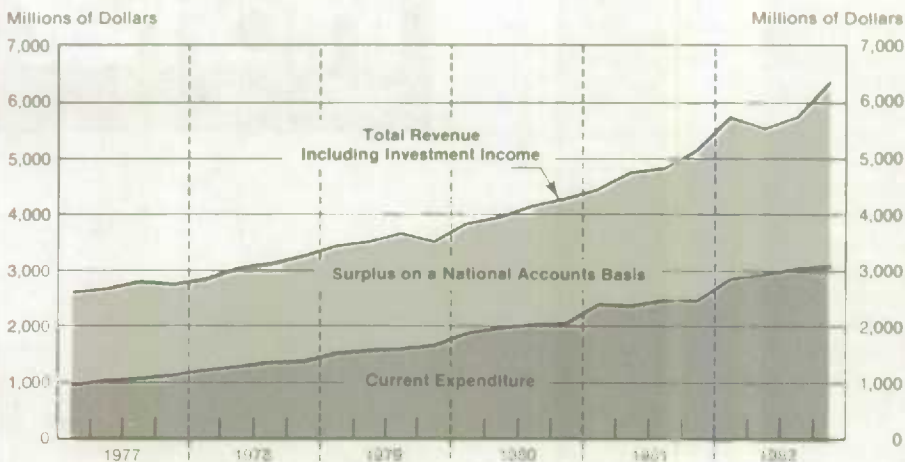
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb.*	609.7	1,233.1	4.7
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Jan.	13,942.3p	13,942.3p	2.2
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.*	681.0	1,261.3	-5.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	6,965.5p	6,965.5p	4.8

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

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

## Canada Pension Plan

(Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates)



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

Canada

the beginning of the series in 1946. The index of man-hours worked of persons employed for the same two industry groupings also registered in 1982 the largest recorded decrease.

For further information, contact M. Larose (613-995-8261), Input-Output Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9.

## The Labour Force

Canada's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly to 12.6% in March 1983 from 12.5% in February. The participation rate increased to 63.9% from 63.8% in the preceding month and the employment/population ratio moved up to 55.9% from 55.8%.

For the week ending March 19, 1983, the seasonally adjusted level of employment was estimated at 10,471,000, an increase of 28,000 from February. The level rose by 30,000 for males 25 years of age and over and by 8,000 for females in this age group, while it declined by 8,000 for females 15 to 24. Employment increases were registered in the trade (+13,000), service (+14,000), other primary (+7,000) and construction (+6,000) industries; lower employment levels were recorded in finance, insurance and real estate (-9,000) and agriculture (-9,000). On a provincial basis, employment rose by 28,000 in Ontario but showed little change elsewhere. The increase was concentrated in the durable manufacturing and construction industries.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment was estimated at 1,515,000 in March, up by 18,000 from February. Increases were noted for males 15 to 24 years of age (+12,000) and for females 25 years and over (+10,000), while unemployment decreased by 9,000 for males 25 and over. Provincially, unemployment increased by 12,000 in Alberta and 4,000 in Newfoundland but decreased by an estimated 8,000 in Ontario.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the provinces in March were as follows, with February rates in brackets: Newfoundland, 20.3% (18.8%); Prince Edward Island, 12.7% (12.9%); Nova Scotia, 13.9% (13.1%); New Brunswick, 16.1% (15.3%); Quebec, 14.6% (14.6%); Ontario, 11.4% (11.6%); Manitoba, 9.7% (10.1%); Saskatchewan, 7.4% (7.6%); Alberta, 11.0% (10.1%); and British Columbia, 14.0% (13.8%).

The unadjusted employment level for Canada was estimated at 10,236,000 in March 1983, down 223,000 (-2.1%) from a year earlier. Unemployment climbed 35.0% to a record high of 1,658,000 from 1,228,000 over the 12-month period. The unemployment rate at 13.9% was up from 10.5% in March 1982, the participation rate increased to 63.4% from 63.2% and the employment/population ratio decreased to 54.6% from 56.6% last year.

For further information, order the March 1983 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, \$3.70/\$37).

## Publications

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## Help-wanted Index

The seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index for Canada (1981=100) advanced to 36 in March 1983 from 33 in February. Comparing indexes for the first quarter of 1983 with the fourth quarter of 1982, the three-month averages remained practically unchanged at 35.8 and 35.6, respectively.

On a regional basis, between February and March help-wanted indexes showed increases in the Atlantic Region (50.5%), Ontario (24.3%) and the Prairies (5.1%) but registered decreases in Quebec (-1.1%) and British Columbia (-7.0%).

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

## Energy Statistics

Warmer than normal weather during January 1983 resulted in lower production levels of energy forms used for heating purposes, compared with the same month a year earlier.

Compounded by colder than average temperatures in January 1982, Canadian production of several energy forms declined notably in the latest month: refined petroleum products were down 14%; electricity generation was off 8%; and natural gas production declined by 6%. However, higher export demands resulted in increased production of coal and crude oil.

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## Weekly Bulletin

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## Industrial Corporations

Fourth quarter 1982 final results confirm the slowing in the rate of decline of Canadian industrial corporations' profits indicated earlier in the preliminary release. Quarterly net profits after taxes were down 23.7% from the year-earlier level compared to declines of 51.2% and 53.3% for the previous two quarters. Revised after-tax net profits of industrial corporations were \$2.5 billion for the fourth quarter of 1982, down from \$3.3 billion in the fourth quarter of 1981 and \$5.2 billion in the second quarter of 1981, just before the recession began.

Revised seasonally adjusted data reveal the change in the profits trend that has developed over the latter part of the recession. For each of the four quarters from mid-1981 to mid-1982, seasonally adjusted profits before taxes and extraordinary items declined about 16%. However, in the last half of 1982, this indicator turned around—rising 7.2% in the third quarter and remaining flat in the latest quarter, for a net increase of 7.2% for the last half of the year.

A further indication that corporate profitability is currently strengthening is reflected in the operating margin ratio (which relates operating income to sales). This figure stood at 5.9% prior to 1981 and then fell for eight consecutive quarters, hitting a low of 2.0% in the third quarter of 1982. In the current quarter, however, operating income rose to 2.3% of sales, down from the fourth quarter 1981 figure of 3.2%, but nevertheless the first positive movement in over two years.

### Year-to-Year Changes

Firms in the manufacturing sector suffered the worst deterioration of income with quarterly net profits declining 54% from 1981 levels. The underlying cause was continuing poor demand and weak prices, partly due to international competition, which led to a sales decline of 6.3%.

There were positive signs in some areas, however, most notably the mineral fuels sector. This industry recorded the largest year-over-year increases, with sales rising 24% and net profits 53%. Oil price increases over the year, combined with cost-cutting efficiency programs and reduced exploration costs contributed to the improved results.

In the related pipeline industry, sales rose only 5% but net profits, benefitting from unusually high dividends received from the Canadian mineral fuels industry, nearly doubled to \$167 million.

The worst year-over-year decline in profits was recorded in the paper industry. Fourth quarter 1981 profits of \$156 million turned to an \$88 million loss in the latest quarter. A sales decline of 11% reflected poor demand and excess capacity in the industry. European producers are aggressively increasing exports, and this has severely reduced Canadian producers' overseas and North American sales.

Detailed statistics will be available in *Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics* (catalogue 61-003, \$10.60/\$42.40).



## Canada's Merchandise Trade

On a seasonally adjusted balance-of-payments basis, preliminary results indicate that Canada's exports increased 3.5% or \$235 million to \$6.99 billion in February 1983 following a 5.3% decline in January and a 0.9% increase in December 1982. Imports also rose, but only marginally, by 0.7% or \$35 million to \$5.55 billion in February after increases of 3.1% in January and 7.7% in December. As a result, the merchandise trade surplus increased \$200 million to \$1.44 billion in February after retracting by \$545 million in January to \$1.24 billion.

### Commodity Analysis

The largest increases posted for domestic exports (seasonally adjusted on a customs basis) in February 1983 included wheat (up 33% or \$100 million to \$400 million, following a \$65 million decrease in January), motor vehicle products (up 6.6% or \$100 million to \$1.59 billion after a \$340 million increase in January), aircraft (up 73% or \$65 million to \$150 million following a \$90 million decrease in January) and lumber (up 16% or \$55 million to \$410 million). Precious metals were down 40% or \$75 million to \$115 million and industrial machinery 25% or \$45 million to \$140 million.

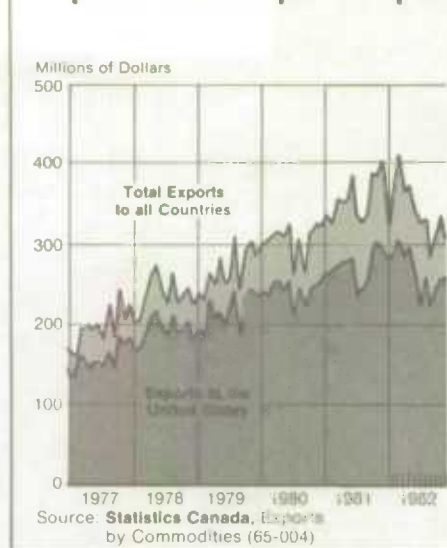
The largest increase in imports for the month of February was for motor vehicle products (up 30% or \$370 million to \$1.62 billion following an increase of \$375 million over the two previous months). There were large declines for crude petroleum (down 53% or \$250 million to \$215 million after an increase of \$125 million in January), precious metals (down 67% or \$120 million to \$60 million following an increase of \$125 million in January) and industrial machinery (down 18% or \$80 million to \$365 million).

### Trading Partner Analysis

The main contribution to the overall increase in February 1983 exports came from the fourth consecutive monthly increase of exports to the United States (up 5.5% or \$270 million to \$5.16 billion following a \$205 million increase in January). In addition, exports to Japan increased 20% or \$65 million to \$395 million after a decline of \$90 million in January, while those to "Other O.E.C.D." countries increased 68% or \$60 million to \$150 million following a decline of \$135 million in January. But exports to the United Kingdom were down 21% or \$45 million to \$175 million after a \$35 million decline in January.

There was one significant increase in imports for February 1983: imports from the United States increased for the fifth consecutive month — up 7% or \$285 million to \$4.28 billion following an increase of \$270 million in January. Imports from Japan also continued to increase — up 13% in February or \$40 million to \$345 million following an \$80 million increase in January. The largest decrease was for the E.E.C. (including the United Kingdom), down 12.5% or \$55 million to \$390 million after a \$60 million increase in January.

## Exports of Newsprint Paper



## Farm Cash Receipts

Farm cash receipts for the January-February period of 1983 totalled an estimated \$3,766.1 million, up marginally by 0.4% from the year-earlier level of \$3,752.2 million.

Receipts from the sale of field crops were down slightly to \$2,287.1 million in the latest period. Increased receipts for wheat, rapeseed and soybeans were offset by lower receipts for rye, flaxseed, corn and potatoes.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products increased 6% from the January-February 1982 level to \$1,429.8 million. A 29% increase in hog receipts was largely responsible for the overall rise in livestock receipts.

Farm cash receipts by province for the latest period were as follows, with January-February 1982 totals in brackets: Saskatchewan, \$1,198.2 million (\$1,193.6 million); Alberta, \$860.2 million (\$833.7 million); Ontario, \$727.5 million (\$779.1 million); Quebec, \$441.9 million (\$380.4 million); Manitoba, \$327.2 million (\$324.1 million); British Columbia, \$120.2 million (\$140.8 million); Nova Scotia, \$38.6 million (\$36.9 million); Prince Edward Island, \$29.4 million (\$31.0 million); and New Brunswick, \$22.9 million (\$32.6 million).

For further information, order the January-February 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.

## Raw Steel Production

Preliminary figures show Canadian production of steel ingots in March 1983 totalled 1 079 673 tonnes, a drop of 13.6% from 1 250 275 tonnes a year earlier.

For further information, order the March 1983 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$2.65/\$26.50), or contact Gerry W. Barrett (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Building Permits

The value of construction work authorized by Canadian municipalities issuing building permits rose 8.4% in January 1983 to a seasonally adjusted \$1,298.0 million from \$1,197.3 million in December 1982. However, the January total was off 5.3% from the revised January 1982 level of \$1,370.4 million.

Residential permits, which were estimated at a seasonally adjusted \$781.2 million in December declined slightly (-0.8%) to a preliminary \$774.9 million in January. Builders' applications were approved for 15,317 dwelling units (9,373 single-detached homes and 5,944 multiple units) during January compared to 14,864 dwellings (10,520 singles and 4,344 multiples) in December. In spite of the seasonality which characterizes the housebuilding industry, the actual numbers of new dwellings authorized rose in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and remained strong in Ontario in the multiple housing sector.

Non-residential permits value rose 25.7% in January to a seasonally adjusted \$523.1 million from \$416.2 million in December, the first significant increase posted since July 1982. Building permits value increased for all categories of construction: industrial projects rose 17.2% to \$76.7 million (\$65.4 million in December); commercial projects — consisting mainly of stores, office buildings, hotels and recreational facilities — climbed 34.7% to \$224.1 million (\$166.3 million) and publicly-initiated projects were up 20.6% to \$222.3 million (\$184.4 million). Even without taking seasonal factors into account, non-residential permits activity was estimated to be strong in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

For further information, order the January 1983 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$3.70/\$37).

## Catalogue of Publications

The 1983 edition of the Statistics Canada *Catalogue of Publications* describes, as in past years, all publications up to 10 years old and still available for sale. This year, however, it has two new features: it describes some of the 1981 Census of Canada publications, as well as a number of selected "Departmental" publications. Everything listed has been released prior to January 1, 1983.

One set of the *Catalogue* (one English copy and one French copy) is provided free of charge. For each additional single copy or set there is a charge of \$5. The *Catalogue* can be ordered from the Casual Sales Unit, Central Inquiries, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6 or from any Statistics Canada regional reference centre. Recipients of the 1982 *Catalogue* should have automatically been sent an order form for this edition.



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## THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED APRIL 8 — 14

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
<b>AGRICULTURE STATISTICS</b>			
Farm Net Income, 1981	21-202	\$6.35	\$7.60
Field Crop Reporting Series — No. 2, March Intentions of Principal Field Crop Area, Canada, 1983	22-002	\$1.55/\$10.60	\$1.85/\$12.70
Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, March 1983	32-012	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, March 1, 1983	32-010	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
<b>CONSUMER INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>			
Income after Tax, Distributions by Size in Canada, 1980	13-210	\$6.35	\$7.60
<b>CURRENT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS</b>			
Current Economic Analysis, February 1983	13-004E	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
<b>INDUSTRY PRODUCT</b>			
Provincial Gross Domestic Product by Industry, 1980	61-202	\$7.40	\$8.90
<b>LABOUR</b>			
Estimates of Employees by Province and Industry, December 1982	72-008	\$3.15/\$31.50	\$3.80/\$37.80
Estimates of Labour Income, October-December 1982	72-005	\$5.30/\$21.20	\$6.35/\$25.45
Preliminary Unemployment Insurance Statistics, December 1982	73-001P	(N/C)	(N/C)
<b>MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES</b>			
Asphalt Roofing, February 1983	45-001	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing, Fourth Quarter 1982	31-003	\$5.30/\$21.20	\$6.35/\$25.45
Cement, February 1983	44-001	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
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Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, December 1982	26-006	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers, February 1983	43-001	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers, February 1983	43-002	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Footwear Statistics, February 1983	33-002	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Gypsum Products, February 1983	44-003	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, January 1983	35-002	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
Rigid Insulating Board, February 1983	36-002	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Shipbuilding and Boatbuilding, 1981	42-218	\$4.75	\$5.70
Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances, February 1983	43-003	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, February 1983	41-006	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
<b>MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES</b>			
Department Store Sales and Stocks, January 1983	63-002	\$3.15/\$31.50	\$3.80/\$37.80
New Motor Vehicle Sales, January 1983	63-007	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
Retail Trade, January 1983	63-005	\$3.70/\$37	\$4.45/\$44.40
<b>TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
Air Carrier Traffic at Canadian Airports, Fourth Quarter 1981	51-005	\$7.95/\$31.80	\$9.55/\$38.15
International Air Charter Statistics, July-September 1982	51-003	\$5.30/\$21.20	\$6.35/\$25.45
Railway Transport: Railway Commodity Origin and Destination Statistics, 1978-1981	52-214	\$8.45	\$10.15