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Weekly Bulletin

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Department Store Sales

Sales of department stores in Canada climbed 13.5% from a year earlier to \$787.6 million in March 1983. Cumulative sales for the first three months of 1983 at \$2,015.1 million were up 7.6% from the January-March 1982 level.

Department store sales by regions for the latest month were as follows, with percentage changes from March 1982 in brackets:

- Ontario, \$273.2 million (+13.2%)
- British Columbia, \$140.3 million (+9.5%)
- Quebec, \$137.6 million (+16.1%)
- Alberta, \$117.9 million (+9.3%)
- Atlantic provinces, \$50.2 million (+23.0%)
- Manitoba, \$43.1 million (+14.0%)
- Saskatchewan, \$25.3 million (+29.1%)

Data users should note that the British Columbia figures include as well those for the Yukon and Northwest Territories. See the March 1983 issue of *Department Store Sales by Regions* (63-004, \$1.55/\$15.50).

Canada's Merchandise Trade

On a seasonally adjusted balance-of-payments basis, preliminary results indicate that Canada's exports declined 0.8% or \$55 million to \$6.92 billion in March 1983 following an increase of 3.6% in February and a decrease of 5.7% in January. Imports also declined 0.8% or \$40 million to \$5.53 billion after a 1.1% increase in February and a 3.1% increase in January. As a result, the merchandise trade surplus edged back \$14 million from February 1983 to \$1.39 billion in March.

In the first quarter of 1983, exports increased 2.1% or \$425 million to \$20.63 billion following a 9.3% decline in the fourth quarter of 1982, a 3.3% increase in the third quarter, and a 5.3% increase in the second quarter. Imports increased 9.0% or \$1.37 billion to \$16.61 billion in the first quarter of 1983 after a 13.2% decline in the fourth quarter, a 3.8% increase in the third quarter, and a 0.3% decline in the second quarter. In the first quarter of 1983, the merchandise trade surplus pulled back \$940 million to \$4.01 billion following balances of \$4.95 billion in the fourth quarter of 1982, \$4.70 billion in the third quarter, and \$4.61 billion in the second quarter. However, the \$4.01 billion surplus recorded in the first quarter of 1983 was \$530 million higher than that for

(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)	Jan.	16,173.3p	16,479.5p	1.5
Persons with Jobs (million)	Apr *	10.33	10.24	-1.0
Unemployed	Apr *	1,570.00	1,658.00	27.3

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Feb.	2,686.8	2,724.4	2.6
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb.	32,156.9p	32,030.2r	-7.1

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	14,905.3p	14,274.0r	2.2
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	17,188.4p	16,897.0r	-9.1

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Mar.	115.8	114.6	7.2
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Mar. *	129.6	129.5	-4.1
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Mar.	208.5p	208.6p	5.9
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Mar.	148.8p	149.1p	0.1
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Mar.	295.6p	293.4p	3.8

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Feb.	826.4p	1,488.7p	-6.3
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Mar.	8,403	23,578	-10.2

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Feb.	3,223	7,219	4.4
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Jan.	36.7	36.7	-7.8
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Jan.	9,902	9,902	-6.4
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Feb.	6.8p	14.2p	-8.5

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Mar. *	7,509p	20,571p	1.0
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Mar. *	6,174p	16,563p	-2.8

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Mar.	17.5p	45.3p	-10.0
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Mar.	1,079.7p	2,659.6p	-27.3

SALES

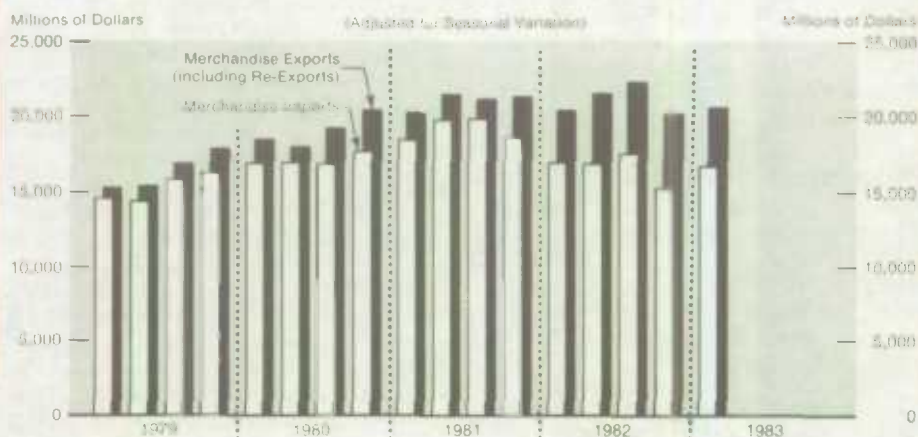
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Mar. *	787.6	2,015.1	7.6
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.	14,613.9p	28,443.8p	0.6
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Mar. *	1,138.3	2,399.5	5.6
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	6,760.2p	13,642.5p	3.6

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

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

Canadian Merchandise Exports and Imports^(*)

Quarter-by-Quarter Movements



* Balance of Payments Basis

Source: Statistics Canada, Summary of External Trade (65-001)

Canada

the first quarter of the 1982 record surplus year.

Commodity Analysis

The largest declines recorded in March 1983 for domestic exports, seasonally adjusted on a customs basis, were for crude petroleum (down 25% or \$65 million to \$195 million), lumber products (down 16% or \$65 million to \$345 million following a \$55 million increase in February) and motor vehicle products (down 3.3% or \$55 million to \$1.56 billion after a \$120 million increase in February). The largest increases were for organic chemicals (up 94% or \$70 million to \$145 million), wheat (up 11.1% or \$45 million to \$445 million following a \$100 million increase in February), and iron ores and concentrates and scrap (up 100% or \$50 million to \$100 million).

The largest decline in March imports was for motor vehicle products (down 15.7% or \$255 million to \$1.37 billion following an increase of \$380 million in February). Crude petroleum imports increased 35% or \$75 million to \$295 million after a \$250 million decline in February.

Trading Partner Analysis

The decline in March total exports was mainly the result of a 3.5% or \$180 million decline in exports to the United States to a level of \$4.99 billion following an increase of \$285 million in February, and a 21% or \$85 million decline to \$320 million in exports to Japan following an increase of \$75 million in February. Exports to the United Kingdom increased 24% or \$40 million to \$215 million after a \$45 million decline in February, while exports to "Other America" countries increased 20% or \$40 million to \$260 million.

The decline in imports for March 1983 was the result of a 9.0% or \$385 million decline in imports from the United States which followed a \$265 million increase in February. Imports from "Other America" countries increased 18.5% or \$50 million to \$320 million. Imports from other destinations changed only marginally.

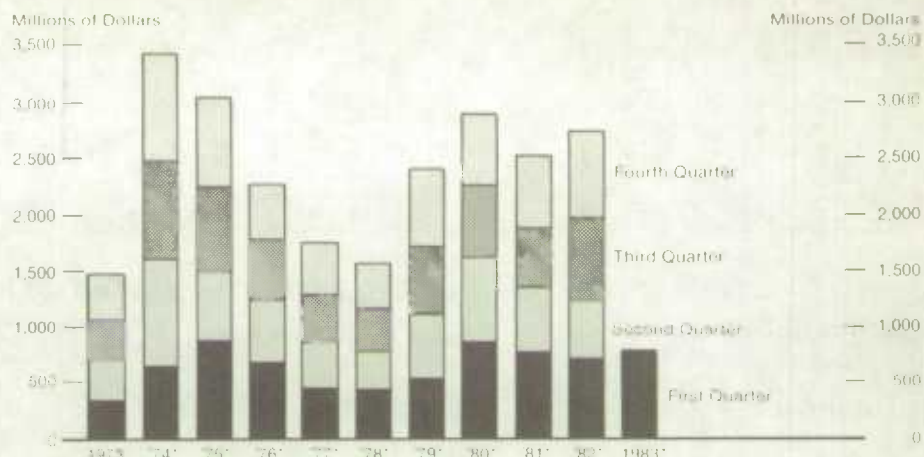
For further information, order the March 1983 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, \$3.15/\$31.50), or contact Gordon Blaney (613-995-6305), Trade Inquiries Unit, Henry Glouchkow or François Bordé (613-995-6115), Trade Measures and Analysis Section, External Trade Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Production of Raw Steel

Preliminary estimates show that Canadian production of steel ingots declined 3.0% to 1 128 257 tonnes in April 1983 from 1 163 367 tonnes a year earlier. Pig iron production also declined 3.0% in the latest month to 775 565 tonnes from 799 846 tonnes in April 1982.

For further information, order the April 1983 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$1.55/\$15.50), or contact Gerry W. Barrett (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Exports of Crude Petroleum to the United States



Source: Statistics Canada, Exports by Commodities (65-004)

*Includes the export tax

The Labour Force

Canada's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased slightly to 12.5% in April 1983 from 12.6% in March. The participation rate rose to 64.2% from 63.9% in the preceding month and the employment/population ratio moved up to 56.1% from 55.9%.

For the week ending April 16, 1983, the seasonally adjusted level of employment was estimated at 10,534,000, an increase of 63,000 from March. There was an estimated 33,000 increase for males 25 years of age and over and a 50,000 increase for females in the same age group; however, there were employment declines of 9,000 and 11,000 for males and females in the 15-24 age group. Employment increases were registered in trade (+26,000) and service (+24,000) industries, while there was a decrease of 11,000 in agriculture. On a provincial basis, employment rose in Quebec (+21,000) and British Columbia (+16,000).

Seasonally adjusted, unemployment was estimated at 1,507,000 in April, down by 8,000 from March. There was a 10,000 decrease recorded in the level of unemployment for females aged 25 and over. Provincially, unemployment increased by 13,000 in Ontario and decreased by 7,000 in Alberta and by 6,000 in British Columbia.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the provinces in April were as follows, with March rates in brackets: Newfoundland, 20.3% (20.3%); Prince Edward Island, 11.0% (12.7%); Nova Scotia, 13.4% (13.9%); New Brunswick, 15.8% (16.1%); Quebec, 14.4% (14.6%); Ontario, 11.7% (11.4%); Manitoba, 9.6% (9.7%); Saskatchewan, 7.6% (7.4%); Alberta, 10.5% (11.0%); and British Columbia, 13.4% (14.0%).

The unadjusted employment level for Canada was estimated at 10,327,000 in April 1983, down 105,000 (-1.0%) from a year earlier. Unemployment rose 27.3% to 1,570,000 from 1,233,000 over the 12-month period. The unemployment rate at

13.2% was up from 10.6% in April 1982, the participation rate increased to 63.4% from 63.0% and the employment/population ratio decreased to 55.0% from 56.3% last year.

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

Travel to Work

Between November 1981 and November 1982, the number of commuters in Canada declined by 4% to 8.9 million, in line with the decline recorded in employment.

The number of commuters using automobiles also declined by 4% over the period to 6.5 million, while the number using public transportation was down 7% to 1.3 million. This contrasts with a 4% increase between 1980 and 1981 in the number of public transportation commuters, and little change in total and automobile commuters between those years.

The automobile continues to carry 73% of commuters to work, with public transportation taking 15% and most of the remainder walking to work.

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New Motor Vehicle Sales

After tentative signs of recovery recorded in the Canadian auto industry at the end of 1982 and early 1983, obscured by a slight sales decline in February, March 1983 retail sales in units of all new motor vehicles, unadjusted for seasonal variations, showed their strongest year-over-year gains since September 1978. Total sales in March climbed by 17.0% from a year earlier to 103,466 units. Sales of North American manufactured passenger cars surged 33.6% to 59,184 units, while domestic commercial vehicles increased slightly by 0.4% to 17,914 units. Sales of passenger cars built overseas decreased 1.7% from the same month last year to 22,022 units, while overseas commercial vehicles recorded an increase of 11.8% to 4,346 units sold.

The share of the Canadian passenger car market held by North American manufacturers in March 1983 was 72.9% compared to 66.4% in March 1982. Japanese manufacturers took 22.4% of the market and European manufacturers 4.7% in March 1983, compared to percentages of 27.1% and 6.5%, respectively, for the previous year.

Total value of new motor vehicles sold in March 1983 increased 20.9% from a year earlier to \$1,138.3 million. North American passenger cars sold for \$624.2 million (up 44.7%) and commercial vehicles for \$250.7 million (down 3.7%). Sales of passenger cars from overseas increased 4.3% to \$223.9 million, while those of commercial vehicles were up by 11.8% to \$39.5 million. Included in total commercial vehicles sold were 217 coaches or buses (down 16.9%) valued at \$20.7 million (up 40.8%).

Despite the decrease in February 1983 sales, total sales in units in the first quarter showed an increase of 4.5% from the same period last year, reaching 218,164 units valued at \$2,399.5 million, up 5.6%.

For further information, order the March 1983 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007, \$2.65/\$26.50), or contact Jean-Pierre Simard, Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304).

Building Construction Indicator

The utilization and interpretation of building permit statistics as a leading indicator of construction activity will be improved with the forthcoming publication of a filtered index of constant dollar value of building permits. This index will be published nationally for residential, industrial, commercial and institutional buildings. Regional indexes are being developed.

The filtering procedure consists of eliminating from a series the seasonality and irregular observations in order to bring out the trend-cycle.

This index can be obtained by ordering the monthly publication *Building Permits* (64-001). For additional information, contact Jean-François Carboneau (613-995-8213), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z7.

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Farm Input Price Index

The Farm Input Price Index (1971=100) for Canada declined 0.6% to 298.5 in the first quarter of 1983 from the revised fourth quarter 1982 level of 300.4. Following this third consecutive quarterly decrease, the index stood virtually unchanged from its level of a year earlier. Major decreases in the component indexes for interest (-15.2%), crop production (-2.2%) and machinery and motor vehicles (-0.6%) in the latest quarter were only partly offset by increases in the rest of the major input groups, of which the most significant was for animal production (+5.0%).

The decrease in the interest index in the first quarter of 1983 was caused by lower interest rates for both mortgage and non-mortgage loans: the combined index for farm mortgages decreased by an estimated 16.3% and that for non-mortgage loans by 14.1%. In the crop production group of inputs, seed prices decreased 2.0% and fertilizer 4.6%, but pesticides rose 7.1%. Recent price declines for petroleum products were the principal factor in the small overall decline in the machinery and motor vehicles index.

The zero percentage change in the farm input price index in the first quarter of 1983

Help-wanted Index

The Help-wanted Index for Canada (1981=100) advanced to 41 in April 1983 from 36 in March. Compared with April 1982, the index showed a decline of 14 points from 55.

In Quebec the Help-wanted Index increased to 52 from 38 between March and April. In all other regions the measure remained practically unchanged (varied by two points or less).

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

Telephone Statistics

Canada's 13 major telephone systems reported revenues of \$679.9 million in March 1983, up 6.0% from a year earlier. Operating expenses rose 3.5% over the period to \$494.7 million. Net operating revenue was \$185.2 million, an increase of 13.3% over March 1982.

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

Oil Pipeline Transport

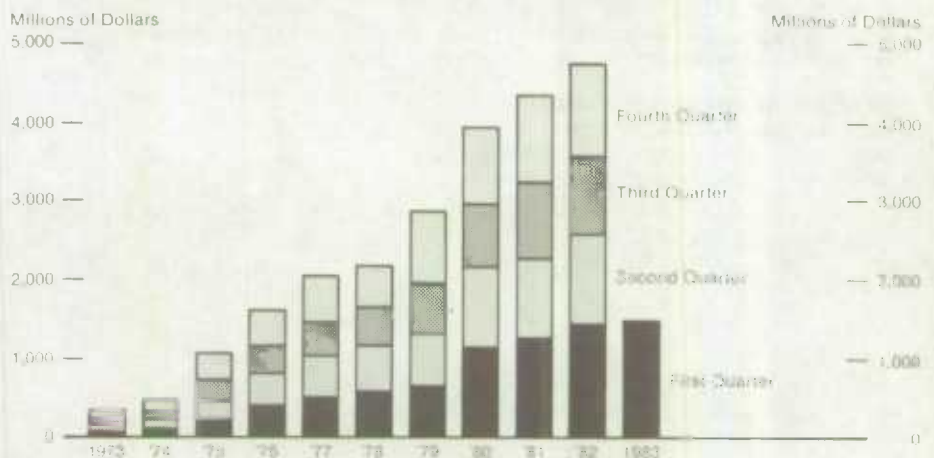
Net receipts of crude oil, condensates, pentanes plus, liquefied petroleum gases and petroleum products through Canadian oil pipelines during February 1983 totalled 10 584 989 cubic metres, down 7.4% from 11 427 061 cubic metres in February 1982.

For further information, order the February 1983 issue of *Oil Pipeline Transport* (55-001, \$2.65/\$26.50).

compared to the same quarter in 1982 came as the net result of decreases in two major input groups — interest (-20.8%) and crop production (-4.8%) — offset by increases in the other groups, particularly machinery and motor vehicles (+5.0%) and animal production (+3.3%).

For further information, order the January-March 1983 issue of *Farm Input Price Index* (62-004, \$4.20/\$16.95).

Canadian Exports of Natural Gas to the United States



Source: Statistics Canada, *Quarterly Review of External Trade* (55-001)



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Footwear Statistics, March 1983	33-002	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
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Production of Selected Biscuits, Quarter Ended March 1983	32-026	\$2.65/\$10.60	\$3.20/\$12.70
Products Shipped by Canadian Manufacturers, 1979	31-211	\$10.60	\$12.70
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Fruit and Vegetable Preservation, Vol. 11, 1982 No. 10, Pack of Canned Pears; No. 15, Pack of Processed Carrots	32-023	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
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Department Store Sales by Regions, March 1983	63-004	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Merchandising Inventories, February 1983	63-014	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
Wholesale Trade, February 1983	63-008	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60