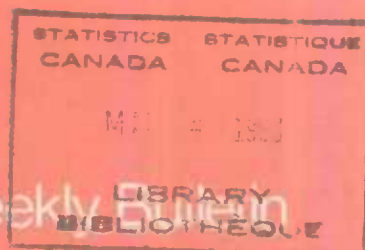


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May 6, 1983

## Unemployment Insurance

Between January and February 1983, the number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries increased by 2.5% to 1.529 million from 1.492 million. On a year-over-year basis, beneficiaries increased by 35.3%.

Unemployment insurance benefits paid out in February 1983 totalled \$997.8 million. For the first two months of 1983, benefits paid to unemployment insurance claimants amounted to \$2.049 billion, up 60.4% from \$1.277 billion during the January-February 1982 period. This change is explained by an increase in the number of benefit weeks (up 48.8%) and a rise in the average weekly benefit (up 9.9%).

For further information, order the January-March 1983 issue of *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (75-001, \$6.35/\$25.40), or contact H. Stienert (613-995-8445), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

## Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product in constant 1971 prices remained unchanged in February 1983 from the substantially increased level recorded in January. The February output level stood 2.0% above the low point of October 1982, 6.8% below the peak of June 1981, and 2.6% below the corresponding month of 1982. In the latest month, significant output increases were recorded in manufacturing and utilities; elsewhere, declines were widespread.

Growth in manufacturing in February was fairly widespread, with 13 of the 20 major industry groups showing improved output. Significant advances were reported by manufacturers of pulp and paper products, plastics, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, metal fabricated products, auto parts, and communications equipment.

Among the industries registering declines in February, education services were off considerably due to the Quebec teachers' strike, and output of security dealers and stock exchanges dropped sharply due to lower volume of share trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange. Declines in air, railway, and pipeline transport were instrumental in causing overall production in transportation services to fall in the month. Elsewhere, output decreases were reported in forestry, agriculture, fishing and trap-

(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)	Mar.	10.24	10.14	-2.1
Unemployed	Mar.	1,658,000	1,585,000	35.0

### 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)	Feb.	129.5	129.5	-4.4
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)	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)	Mar.	17.5p	45.3p	-10.0
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Mar.	1,079.7p	2,659.6p	-27.3

### SALES

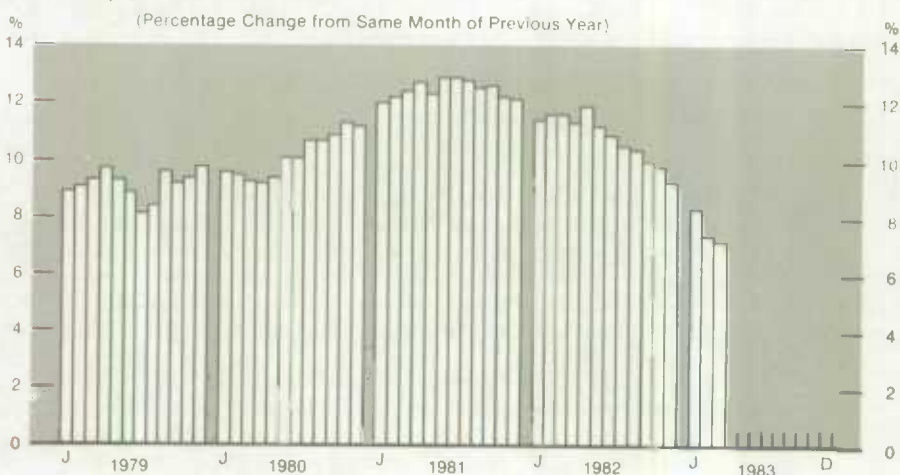
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	609.7	1,233.1	4.7
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.	14,613.9p	28,443.8p	0.6
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	681.0	1,261.3	-5.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	6,760.2p	13,642.5p	3.6

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

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

## Consumer Price Index for Canada (CPI)

(1981=100)



Source: Statistics Canada, The Consumer Price Index (62-001)

Canada

ping, construction and trade.

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

## Language Used at Home

In Canada, the number of Anglophones speaking French at home rose by 77% between 1971 and 1981 to reach more than 122,500. Over the same period, the number of Francophones using English as the home language increased by 18% to 411,000. The ratio of Francophones speaking English at home to Anglophones speaking French at home declined from 5 to 1 in 1971 to 3.4 to 1 in 1981.

In Quebec, the number of Anglophones using French as their home language increased by 33,100 (67.4%) during the decade to reach 82,100 in 1981. The number of Francophones speaking English at home grew by 44.7% (32,850) between 1971 and 1981 to nearly 106,400.

Outside Quebec, the number of Anglophones using French at home doubled to 40,400 while the number of Francophones speaking English at home rose to 304,600 in 1981, up 11% from 10 years earlier.

For further information on mother tongue and home language from the 1981 Census, contact Mary Metcalfe (613-593-7644), Federal and Media Relations Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Railway Carloadings

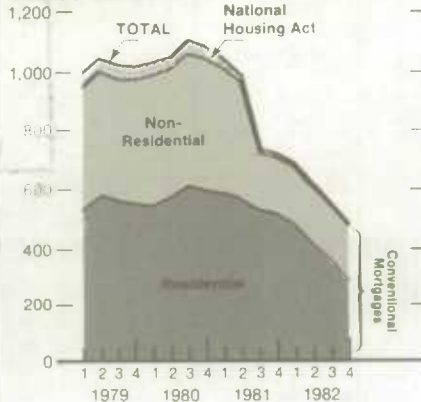
Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada in March 1983 totalled 17.2 million tonnes, a drop of 9.9% from a year earlier. The carriers received an additional 1.1 million tonnes from the United States, down 11.7% from March 1982.

Commodities registering notable changes in volumes loaded in the latest month were: potash (+61.1%); coal (-16.2%); iron ore and concentrates (-22.7%) and sulphur (-39.6%).

Total loadings in Canada in January-March 1983 showed a decrease of 9.9%

## Real Estate Investment Trusts

Quarterly Statement of Mortgages Outstanding  
Millions of Dollars



Source: Statistics Canada, Financial Institutions, Financial Statistics (61-006)

## 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), or contact Richard Godin (613-996-3139), Manufacturing and Primary Industries, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Urban Transit

Canadian urban transit systems (59) collected 128,136,118 initial passenger fares in March 1983. The total distance run was 64 099 190 kilometres and operating revenues amounted to \$70.5 million.

For further information, order the March 1983 issue of *Urban Transit* (53-003, \$1.55/\$15.50).

from the 1982 period, while receipts from U.S. connections were down by 6.2%.

For further information, order the March 1983 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, \$1.55/\$15.50).

## The Index to Municipal Data, 1982 Now Available

In recent years Statistics Canada has responded to a growing demand from municipalities and other groups for data at the sub-provincial level. While a great deal of information is produced to meet this demand, until now few reference products have been provided to guide prospective users to the data available.

Now the *Index to Municipal Data, 1982* (catalogue no. 11-515, \$15.90 in Canada, \$19.10 elsewhere) provides an up-to-date guide to the over 250 Statistics Canada publications with data for census sub-divisions, census metropolitan areas, and census agglomerations. Included is a guide to unpublished small area data sources within the Bureau. For those who need urban data there is no better directory to Statistics Canada information.

Copies of the *Index to Municipal Data, 1982* can be ordered from Publication Sales and Service, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6 or from the nearest Statistics Canada regional reference centre. For further information, contact Françoise Singh (613-996-0153), Business, Provincial and Municipal Relations Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Restaurant Statistics

Preliminary estimates for March 1983 show that restaurant, caterer and tavern establishments in Canada had sales totalling \$809.0 million. Final estimates for February 1983 indicate total sales of \$714.5 million.

For further information on sales of chains versus independents and provincial sales by kind of business, order the March 1983 issue of *Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics* (63-011, \$1.55/\$15.50), or contact R. Bennett (613-996-9301), Services Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## International Travel

Preliminary statistics for March 1983 show the number of United States residents visiting Canada increased by 6.0% from a year earlier to 1.8 million. Visitors from countries other than the U.S. totalled 71,800, 3.2% higher than in March 1982. Canadian residents re-entering this country after visits to the U.S. numbered 3.0 million, up 13.0% from March 1982, while residents returning from all other countries increased by 8.6% to 169,200.

On a year-to-date basis, 4.7 million U.S. residents entered Canada, up 2.9% from the first quarter of 1982. Visitors from all other countries decreased by 1.5% to 171,900. Canadian residents returning from the U.S. numbered 7.6 million in the latest period, up 14.8%, while those re-entering from other countries increased by 4.1% from the same period in 1982 to 473,000.

For further information, order the March 1983 issue of *International Travel — Advance Information* (66-002, \$1.55/\$15.50).

## The Dairy Review

Milk sold from Canadian farms for all purposes in February 1983 totalled an estimated 521 922 kilolitres, 1.02% more than in February 1982. This brought the total estimate of milk sold off farms during the first two months of 1983 to 1 089 356 kilolitres, an increase of 1.03% over the January-February 1982 period.

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## Weekly Bulletin

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## Business Conditions Survey

Economic conditions in Canadian manufacturing industries show promise of considerable improvement in the second quarter of 1983, according to the April Business Conditions Survey. On balance, respondents indicate improved production expectations, rising new orders, a higher backlog of unfilled orders and a lower level of finished products inventories.

Regarding production expectations, results show that 46% of the weighted response expect production to be higher from April to June than it was in the January to March period. In January, only 28% expected an increase. The proportion expecting lower production decreased to 17% from 29% in the January survey. When the results are classified by economic use or type of market served, manufacturers in all categories were more optimistic about production in the current quarter than for the previous one. The provincial results indicate that manufacturers in all provinces except Alberta are more optimistic about second quarter production than they were for output in the first three months of 1983.

At the Canada level, the proportion reporting rising new orders increased to 40% in April from 20% in January, while those reporting declining new orders decreased to 22% from 36%. Furthermore, for all provinces and economic-use groups, the proportion indicating rising new orders was higher in April than in January and the proportion citing declining new orders was down.

Overall, the proportion reporting a higher than normal backlog of unfilled orders increased to 9% in April from 3% in January and the proportion indicating a lower than normal backlog of unfilled orders decreased to 39% from 62%. Similar trends in unfilled orders backlog were evident in each economic-use group and in many of the provinces.

There was a general decline in the level of finished products inventory. At the Canada level, the proportion indicating that finished products inventory was too high dropped to 22% in April from 38% in January and the proportion citing finished products inventory as too low increased to 5% from 3%.

Historical data from the Business Conditions Survey are available from matrices 2840, 2841, and 2842 of the CANSIM data bank, CANSIM Division (613-995-7406). For further information, contact T. Newton (613-996-7008), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

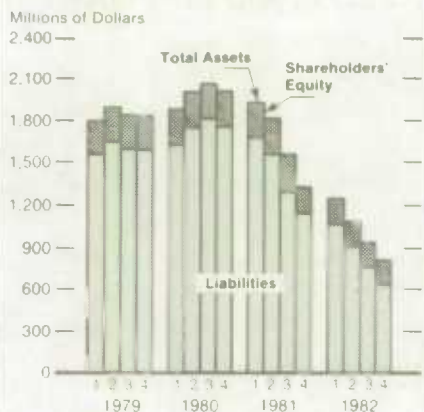
## Refrigerators/Home Freezers

Domestic production of refrigerators during the month of March 1983 totalled 38,523 units. Home freezer production amounted to 35,723 units.

For further information, order the March 1983 issue of *Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers* (43-001, \$1.55/\$15.50), or contact Louis Boucher (613-996-3226), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Real Estate Investment Trusts

Quarterly Statement of Estimated Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity



Source: Statistics Canada, Financial Institutions, Financial Statistics (61-006)

## Energy Statistics

Preliminary figures for February 1983 show that Canadian crude oil production rose to a total of 6 630 megalitres, up 8% from February 1982.

Exports of crude oil rose 19% in the latest month and receipts of domestic crude by Canadian refineries increased to 5 445 ML from 5 276 ML in February 1982. In contrast, imports of crude oil dropped by over 50% to 1 044 ML from 2 209 ML.

During February 1983, production of refined petroleum products totalled 6 825 ML, 7% lower than in February 1982. Sales of these products dropped 12%: motor gasoline (which represents 37% of total sales of refined products) declined by only 4% but sales of light and heavy fuel oil (which represent 34% of total sales) showed a combined decrease of more than 20%.

Production levels for other major energy forms showed moderate declines in February 1983: coal and natural gas liquids each declined by 3%, while electricity and natural gas levels were each 2% lower than in February 1982. However, sales by natural gas distributors declined by 14% to a total of 4 857 gigalitres. Natural gas exports amounted to 2 021 GL (down 6%).

For further information, contact Richard Godin or Mike Valiquette (613-996-3139), Energy and Minerals Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Washing Machines/Dryers

Canadian production of electric automatic washing machines in March 1983 was 37,740 units. Production of electric automatic clothes dryers during the latest month totalled 28,610 units.

For further information, order the March 1983 issue of *Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers* (43-002, \$1.55/\$15.50), or contact Louis Boucher (613-996-3226), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Building Permits

The seasonally adjusted value of building construction work authorized by Canadian municipalities remained relatively strong at \$1,286.0 million in February 1983, down marginally (-1.3%) from a revised \$1,302.5 million in January. The decrease was almost entirely attributable to a softening of building intentions in the residential sector. The February 1983 total was 13.0% higher than a year earlier when the value of residential and non-residential construction authorized was estimated at \$1,138.1 million.

Residential permits' value at an estimated \$777.4 million in February, seasonally adjusted, was down 1.9% from the revised January estimate of \$792.5 million, reflecting a drop in the number of single-detached homes authorized to 8,281 from 9,408; multiple dwellings remained practically unchanged at 5,907 units (5,940 in January). (Worth mentioning is the concentration of building permits activity in metropolitan areas, which accounted for 80% of new housing units in the latest month compared to 73% in February 1982 and 65% in February 1981. This suggests that the buoyant activity observed is dependent on a few areas — Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Saskatoon, Vancouver — and raises the question as to whether this buoyancy can be sustained in upcoming months.)

Building permits activity in the non-residential sector remained strong in February with the value of authorized construction estimated at a seasonally adjusted \$508.6 million compared to \$510.0 million in January. The value of proposed new industrial projects rose 72.8% to \$115.7 million from \$67.0 million in January, and publicly-initiated projects were up 15.6% to \$252.4 million (\$218.4 million), but new commercial projects' value dropped 37.5% to \$140.5 million (\$224.6 million). Permits activity in the non-residential sector was particularly strong in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta during February.

For further information, order the February 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.

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