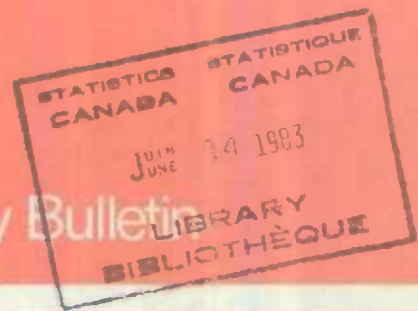


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Weekly Bulletin



June 3, 1983

## Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance payments made to claimants in March 1983 amounted to \$1.147 billion, up 15% from the previous month and 46% above the year-earlier level.

In March, a total of 1.489 million persons received unemployment insurance benefits, down 3% from 1.529 million in February but up 30% from 1.146 million in March 1982.

Comparing the first quarter of 1983 with the same period of last year, unemployment insurance benefits paid increased 55% to \$3.196 billion from \$2.064 billion, weeks of benefit paid advanced 44% to 21.070 million from 14.635 million and the average weekly benefit rose 10% to \$155 from \$141. Claims received during the same period decreased by 3% to 912,000 from 938,000.

For further information, order the January-March 1983 issue of *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (73-001, Quarterly, \$6.35/\$25.40), or contact H. Stiebert (613-995-8445), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

## Industry Selling Price Index

The Industry Selling Price Index (ISPI) for manufacturing (1971=100) reached a preliminary level of 296.0 in April 1983, up 0.3% from the revised March index of 295.2. The year-over-year rise in prices of 2.9% was the lowest 12-month increase recorded since July 1971.

The primary metal industries index was up 2.1% in April, but still stood at a level only 1.8% higher than a year earlier. The main reason for the rise in the group index was a 5.3% increase in the smelting and refining industry index. Price increases were registered for base metals and for the precious metals, with some of the base metal increases quite large.

The food and beverage industries index advanced 0.6% in April and was up 3.3% from the year-earlier level. The slaughtering and meat processors index increased 1.5% over the month as higher prices for beef more than offset lower pork prices; another major factor in the higher group index was a 2.3% rise in the feeds industry index.

The petroleum and coal products industries index decreased an estimated 3.0% in April as gasoline prices fell during another

(continued on next page)

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Feb.	405.67p	405.13p	6.2
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.*	16,180.9p	16,136.9p	1.0
Persons with Jobs (million)	Apr.	10.33	10.24	-1.0
Unemployed	Apr.	1,570,000	1,658,000	27.3

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Mar.*	3,052.1	2,686.8	9.7
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Mar.	31,863.7p	31,934.7r	-8.5

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Mar.	16,726.4p	14,963.1r	-0.2
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Mar.	17,292.8p	17,263.3r	-7.7

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Apr.	115.8	115.8	6.6
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Mar.	129.6	129.5	-1.1
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Apr.*	210.9p	208.3p	6.4
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Apr.*	153.1p	149.0p	1.3
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Apr.*	296.0p	295.2p	2.9

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Feb.	826.4p	1,488.7p	-6.3
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Apr.*	12,413	35,991	1.9

### 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)	Feb.	8,515.1	18,407.7	-6.4
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Mar.	7.1p	21.3p	-8.4

### 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)	Apr.	16.4p	61.7p	-10.1
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Mar.	1,079.7p	2,659.6p	-27.3

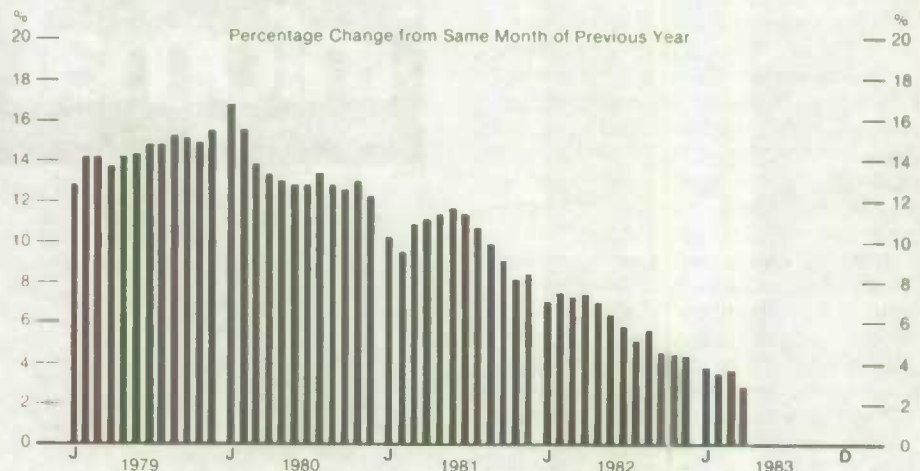
### SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	787.6	2,015.1	7.6
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Mar.	16,696.8p	45,123.5p	-0.2
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	1,138.3	2,399.5	5.6
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Mar.*	8,124.7p	21,783.7p	5.5

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

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

## Industry Selling Price Index: Manufacturing (1971=100)



Source: Statistics Canada, Industry Price Indexes (62-011)



round of "price wars". The group index was up 3.7% from April 1982, its lowest 12-month movement since 1972.

The wood industries' major group index increased 1.4% in April and stood 9.5% higher than a year earlier. The sawmills and planing mills component index also rose 1.4% in the month, mainly in response to large price increases for spruce, pine, cedar and Douglas fir. Generally, prices for these commodities have risen by between 24% and 40% from their low points, but despite these recent increases, all of these commodities are still between 17% and 25% below their peak index levels, posted in 1979.

*For further information, order the April 1983 issue of Industry Price Indexes (62-011, \$3.70/\$37), or contact the Information Unit (613-995-5738), Industrial Prices Section, Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.*

## Labour Income

Labour income for the month of February 1983 was estimated at \$16,180.9 million, an increase of \$159.7 million or 1.0% from February 1982.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries increased by \$31.8 million between January and February 1983 to \$15,291.6 million.

*The estimates will be published in the January-March 1983 issue of Estimates of Labour Income (72-005, \$5.30/\$21.20).*

## Raw Materials Price Index

The Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100) reached a preliminary level of 210.9 in April 1983, up 1.2% from the revised March level of 208.3 and 6.4% higher than a year earlier. The raw materials price index excluding coal, crude oil and natural gas increased 2.8% in the month and 1.3% over the last 12 months. All eight component indexes registered price increases in April: a 2.3% increase for animal products had the largest impact, but significant increases were also registered for non-ferrous metals (5.4%), vegetable products (3.6%) and wood products (2.6%).

The animals and animal products component index rose 2.3% in April; however, on a year-to-year basis the index was up only 0.5%, the lowest 12-month rise since January 1982. (However, this component index has now risen 5.7% since November.) Marked price increases for cattle and calves dominated the April movement, while hog prices dropped sharply.

The non-ferrous metals component rose 5.4% in April to a level 12.7% higher than a year earlier. Significant price increases for nickel, silver and copper were largely responsible for the monthly movement, with gold and non-ferrous scrap also moving up.

The index for vegetable materials rose 3.6% in April, but still stood 4.7% below the level of April 1982. The monthly increase was mainly attributable to price rises for wheat and other grains.

## Publications

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## Energy Statistics

Preliminary figures show that exports of Canadian crude oil in the first quarter of 1983 slightly exceeded imports of foreign crude, reversing the traditional trend in Canada.

Exports of crude oil reached 3 705 megalitres during the first three months of 1983, almost 40% higher than the levels attained in the January-March 1982 period. This increase in exports sustained production levels of Canadian crude which totalled 19 613 megalitres (+3%) during the first quarter of 1983.

In contrast, imports of crude oil declined by 38% from the January to March period of 1982 to a level of 3 682 megalitres. This situation has resulted from a slowdown in the activity at refineries in Quebec, Ontario and the Atlantic Provinces and the substitution of domestic crude as a feedstock in those refineries.

Production levels for all other major sources of energy were lower in the first quarter of 1983 when compared with the same period of 1982: natural gas production amounted to 23 997 gigalitres, down 7.4%, coal production was 2% lower and electricity generation decreased by 4.6%.

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

## Infomat Weekly Bulletin

Published by the Federal and Media  
Relations Division, Statistics Canada

Editor Greg Thomson (613-593-7444),  
3F, R.H. Coats Building, Tunney's Pasture,  
Ottawa K1A 0T6

Catalogue 11-002E, Price, Canada,  
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## Retail Trade

Total retail trade in Canada in March 1983, unadjusted for seasonal variations, confirmed earlier indications of increased consumer confidence. March 1983 retail sales totalled \$8,124.7 million in current dollars, up 9.0% from the March 1982 level — the largest gain posted since the December 1981 increase of 9.8%. Among the 28 kinds of businesses covered, only garages reported decreased sales (-0.7%) on a year-over-year comparison, while the largest increases were noted for used car dealers (21.6%), automotive parts and accessories stores (17.6%) and women's clothing stores (16.2%).

In March, total retail sales increased from a year earlier in all provinces except the Yukon and Northwest Territories (-9.0%), gains ranging from 2.1% in British Columbia to 16.4% in Nova Scotia. Sales increases were shown in all four metropolitan areas covered: Winnipeg (11.3%), Montreal (10.2%), Toronto (9.1%) and Vancouver (0.5%).

Revised estimates for January and February 1983 show retail sales increased 3.3% and 3.7% over the corresponding months last year, to \$6,887.0 million and \$6,772.0 million, respectively.

Despite the strong improvement shown in March, total retail trade for the first quarter of 1983 remained relatively weak, overall sales were 5.5% higher than in the same quarter last year, reaching \$21,783.7 million before any adjustment for inflation.

*For further information, order the March 1983 issue of Retail Trade (63-005, \$3.70/\$37), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada.*

## Department Store Sales

Department store sales, without adjustment for seasonal variations, were \$787.6 million in March 1983, up 13.5% over March 1982. Sales by major department store organizations totalled \$517.5 million, up 10.8% from March 1982, while junior department store organizations had sales of \$270.1 million, an increase of 18.8% from a year earlier.

All provinces showed increased department store sales compared to a year earlier, with gains ranging from 1.0% in the Yukon and Northwest Territories to 30.4% in Nova Scotia. Of the 10 metropolitan areas covered, the largest sales gain was posted in Halifax-Dartmouth (43.2%) while the smallest increase was in Calgary (1.9%).

Department stores captured 9.7% of the total retail trade market in March 1983, an increase over the share of 9.3% recorded in March 1982.

Cumulative sales for all department stores for the first quarter of 1983 were \$2,015.1 million, up 7.6% over the January-March 1982 period. Sales of major department stores totalled \$1,333.7 million, an increase of 6.0% over 1982, while junior department stores had sales of \$681.4 million, up 10.9%.



## Construction in Canada

Construction volume in Canada is expected to total \$55,543.6 million in 1983, down marginally by \$199.6 million (-0.4%) from the 1982 level of \$55,743.2 million. That total was, in turn, \$1,140.7 million (-2.0%) below the 1981 figure of \$56,883.9 million. (In terms of constant dollar volume, 1982 showed a decrease of \$1,929 million or 8.9% from the preceding year.)

An analysis of the total value of work to be put in place in 1983 by the various industries reveals some significant variations from 1982. Construction expenditures in more than half the industries are expected to drop. The largest percentage decreases are shown by the commercial and financial sectors (-20.2% and -19.5%), followed by manufacturing (-18.8%) and utilities (-7.6%). The largest percentage increases are slated for mining (9.3%), housing (8.0%) and institutions (7.7%).

Construction expenditures in most of the provinces are expected to increase in 1983 with notable advances of 20.4% in Newfoundland and 16.8% in Nova Scotia. However, decreases are forecast for Prince Edward Island (-9.8%), New Brunswick (-5.1%), Ontario (-2.7%) and Alberta (-4.1%) during 1983.

The publication *Construction in Canada, 1981-1983* (64-201, \$7.40) is scheduled to be released in June.

## Education in Canada

*Education in Canada, 1982* (catalogue 81-229, Canada: \$8.45; other countries: \$10.15), the tenth annual review of statistics on Canadian education, presents data on a variety of topics for the 1981-82 academic year.

The publication also includes time series on enrolment, graduates, full-time teachers and finance.

Highlights of the report include:

- In 1981-82, 675,100 full-time students were enrolled in community colleges and in universities, 5% more than in the previous year.
- Elementary and secondary enrolment is continuing to decline: the 5,032,400 students registered in 1981 represented a 1.5% drop from a year earlier and a 14% decline from the 1970 peak. The latest decrease brings enrolment down to the 1964 level.
- The decline is not reflected in private schools, where enrolment is increasing. In 1981, 220,000 students attended private schools, a 5% gain over the previous year.
- The size of the elementary-secondary teaching force has not fallen in proportion to the sharp reduction of students. Their numbers peaked in 1976 at 284,900, and dropped to 274,500 in 1981.
- Education expenditure in 1980-81 accounted for 7.7% of the Gross National Product (GNP). The cost of education to Canadians was \$940 per capita. The three levels of government spent 16% of their budgets on education.

## Income Distributions

Final estimates indicate that average family income in Canada (total money income, before taxes and deductions) moved over \$30,000 for the first time in 1981 — average family income was up by 10% over the year to \$30,440 from \$27,579 in 1980. However, when inflation during 1981 is taken into account, incomes show a drop of 2%.

Provincially, only Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia had average family incomes above the national average in 1981. Average family incomes ranged from a low of \$23,163 in Prince Edward Island to a high of \$34,546 in Alberta. Among the largest Canadian cities, Edmonton and Calgary had the highest average family incomes, \$37,275 and \$37,129, respectively, followed by Ottawa at \$36,825, Toronto at \$35,616 and Vancouver at \$35,344.

The average income of unattached individuals in 1981 was \$13,535 compared to \$11,435 in 1980. After adjusting for the rise in consumer prices, the increase was 5%.

For further information, order *Income Distributions by Size in Canada, 1981* (13-207, Canada: \$10.60; other countries: \$12.70), or contact the Data Dissemination Unit (613-996-5294), Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Travel/Tourism Digest

For most Canadians, the great travel escape continues to take us to ... Canada.

According to *Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation: A Statistical Digest* (catalogue 87-401, Canada: \$10.60, other countries: \$12.70), when Canadians take overnight trips for business or pleasure, we leave our province only one time in six. Indeed, 78% of accommodation expenses and 74% of travel expenditures in Canada are made by Canadians. When we leave Canada, nine times out of 10 we are travelling to the United States.

But, for attracting visitors to North America, Canada seems to have the edge over our neighbour to the south: we have only one-ninth of the population of the United States, nonetheless we attract approximately one out of four tourists from Western European countries such as Great Britain, France, Italy and Germany.

As would be expected, most international visitors to Canada are from the United States. American visitors spend about two-thirds of the total spent by all visitors to Canada.

Highlights of the above-noted report include the following:

- Canadians travelling internationally spent an estimated \$1 billion on Canadian airline fares in 1980.

## Current Economic Analysis

Partial data available for the first quarter of 1983 indicate that real Gross National Product grew substantially during the period. This marks the first quarterly increase since the onset of the recession in the third quarter of 1981. Employment data available for April and the leading economic indicators point to a continuation of this growth in the second quarter of this year, suggesting that the recovery has firmly taken hold.

The strength during the first quarter appears to have originated in personal expenditure, residential construction, and in a substantially reduced rate of inventory liquidation. Although exports were up somewhat, imports increased considerably more and consequently the trade surplus declined. Business fixed investment recorded another decline although the leading indicators of this sector have strengthened recently.

There is considerable evidence that the recovery has built up sufficient momentum to be self-sustaining and continue through the second quarter and beyond. The prospects for consumer demand for the second quarter are very good as consumer confidence is up, as are manufacturers' sales expectations. Real disposable income apparently has been buoyed by increases in employment, a reduction in strikes and wage rollbacks, and a continued easing of inflation. In addition, lower interest rates and the prospect of large tax refunds commencing in the second quarter bolster the notion of continued strength in consumer spending. The period of heavy inventory liquidation appears to be over as considerably fewer manufacturing firms reported excess inventories in the April survey of business conditions. The outlook for exports in the second quarter has improved somewhat as the U.S. economy recorded sharp gains in industrial output in March and April, and personal expenditure in that country increased in March and also appears to have advanced in April. Except for France, members of the seven major industrialized countries in the West finally appear to be recovering following recessions that have lasted up to three years in some cases.

- Air passenger travel rose 57% between Canada and the United States, and 34% on scheduled flights between Canadian points over the period 1975-1980.
- In 1980, the Calgary-Edmonton air route accounted for 700,000 passengers, second in volume to Toronto-Montreal with 1,100,000 passengers.
- In 1981, Toronto was the city with the highest average annual hotel occupancy rate (77%).
- Average room rates of hotels were highest in Calgary in both 1980 and 1981, at \$47.33 and \$57.16, respectively.
- Receipts from food and beverage establishments totalled \$9.1 billion (1981), while receipts of businesses offering traveller accommodation were \$4.5 billion (1980).
- Visitor-days spent in national parks rose 30% between 1975 and 1980.



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<b>TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE BULLETIN</b> Road Transport, Vol. 11, No. 1, Motor Carriers — Freight and Household Goods Movers, 1981	53-006	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60