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Weekly Bulletin

August 12, 1983

Canada's Merchandise Trade

On a seasonally adjusted balance-of-payments basis, preliminary results indicate that Canada's exports increased 1.1% to a level of \$7.5 billion in June 1983, after a 2.7% decline in May and a 9.9% increase in April. Imports were up 3.3% to \$5.9 billion, following a 1.0% increase in May and a 1.6% increase in April. As a result, the merchandise trade surplus narrowed further by \$110 million to \$1.6 billion in June, after retracting by \$265 million in May. However, the merchandise trade surplus for the first six months of 1983 stood at a level of \$9.3 billion, \$1.0 billion higher than in the corresponding 1982 period.

Exports increased 9.0% or \$1.9 billion to \$22.6 billion in the second quarter of 1983, while imports increased 3.6% or \$0.6 billion to \$17.4 billion. As a result, the merchandise trade surplus increased \$1.3 billion to \$5.3 billion for the April-June 1983 period.

Commodity Analysis

The largest decrease recorded in June 1983 for exports, seasonally adjusted on a customs basis, was for wheat (down 61% or \$400 million to \$255 million, following a \$95 million increase in May). Other significant decreases were for passenger cars (down 10% or \$85 million to \$765 million following a \$145 million increase in May), aluminum (down 35% or \$65 million to \$115 million), natural gas (down 16% or \$55 million to \$290 million), chemicals (down 15% or \$55 million to \$295 million following a \$65 million decrease in May) and trucks (down 11% or \$45 million to \$375 million). The largest increases were for industrial machinery (up 52% or \$85 million to \$245 million), fabricated copper (up 196% or \$70 million to \$100 million) and motor vehicle parts (up 11% or \$60 million to \$600 million).

For imports, the largest increases posted in June 1983 were for crude petroleum (up 108% or \$75 million to \$145 million following a \$140 million decrease in May) and for industrial machinery (up 14% or \$55 million to \$465 million). The largest decreases were for motor vehicle parts (down 14% or \$135 million to \$865 million following a \$75 million increase in May), passenger cars (down 14% or \$70 million to \$445 million), hardware (down 43% or \$65 million to \$85 million following a \$65 million increase in

(continued on next page)

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Mar.	410.85p	407.55p	6.8
Labour Income (\$ million)	Mar.	17,499.9p	17,103.9p	2.8
Persons with Jobs (million)	July*	11.18	10.98	1.6
Unemployed	July*	1,409,000	1,452,000	1.7

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	May	3,235.3	3,261.6	3.9
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	May	31,423.5p	31,833.4r	-8.1

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	May	17,000.8p	15,810.5r	11.0
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	May	17,248.5p	17,253.0r	-6.5

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	June	117.4	116.1	5.6
New House Price Index (1976=100)	June	130.2	129.9	-2.2
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	June	210.5p	211.2p	5.3
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	June	152.6p	153.8p	-0.4
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	June	299.9p	298.4p	3.5

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	May	1,266.8p	5,854.8p	16.1
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	June*	16,354	74,902	41.6

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	May*	3,739	17,878	-4.2
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	May*	29.8	166.2	-1.5
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Apr.	7,613.0	34,475.8	-6.9
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	May	5.1p	31.6p	-12.7

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	June*	8,231p	44,206p	3.3
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	June*	6,280p	34,986p	0.6

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	July*	15.3p	113.8p	-8.4
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	June	1,110.3p	5,960.0p	-13.2

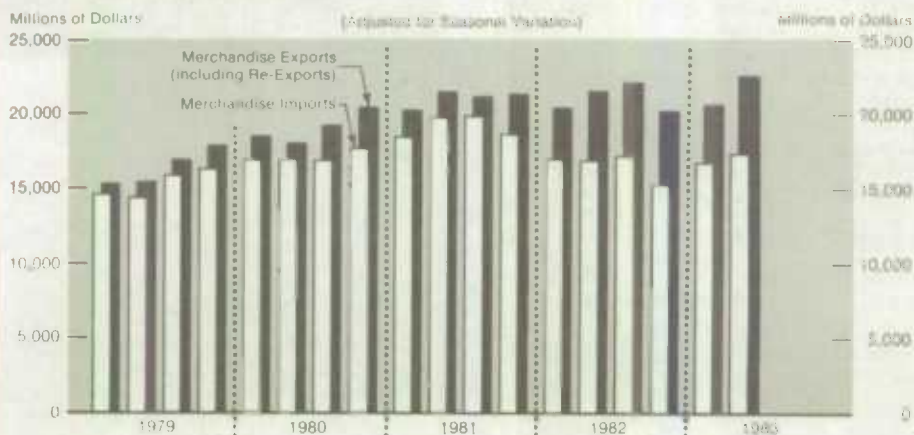
SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	June*	920.2	4,550.8	6.7
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	May	17,005.3p	78,015.0p	2.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	June*	1,251.5	6,083.1	13.1
Retail Sales (\$ million)	May	8,833.2p	38,993.1p	4.7

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)

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May) and for aircraft (down 30% or \$55 million to \$135 million).

Trading Partner Analysis

The largest declines recorded in June were for exports to the United States (down 1.3% or \$70 million to \$5,475 million following a \$285 million increase in May) and for exports to "Other America" countries (down 25% or \$75 million to \$220 million). Exports to Japan (5.3% share) fell 5.0% in May and 7.0% in June.

For imports, the largest increase recorded in June 1983 was for imports from the United States (up 2.0% or \$80 million to \$4,495 million) and the largest decrease was for imports from the "Other OECD" countries (down 26% or \$50 million to \$145 million).

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

Pension Plans in Canada

The number of pension plans provided by employers in Canada for their employees increased by 4.4% to 15,232 in 1982 from 14,586 in 1980. The number of plan participants increased by 4.1% to 4,658,000 members at January 1, 1982. Although some 1,500 plans were terminated during the two-year period, more than 2,000 new plans were registered; most of these, however, were for executives of companies and major shareholders.

As a proportion of employed paid workers in the labour force, the 4,658,000 pension plan participants represented 46.8%, down from 47.7% in 1980.

Total contributions for 1981 — from both employees and employers — amounted to \$9.4 billion, a 21% increase over the amount contributed in 1979. Two-thirds of this \$9.4 billion was contributed into trustee pension funds and thereby channelled directly into financial markets, providing a major source of investment capital in Canada.

Detailed information on the provisions of these 15,232 pension plans will be published at a later date in *Pension Plans in Canada 1982*, the sixth report resulting from the Statistics Canada data base on employer-sponsored pension plans. Advance information is presently available and can be obtained by contacting Hubert Frenken (613-995-4476), *Pensions Section*, Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Urban Transit

Canada's 59 urban transit systems collected 113,506,514 initial passenger fares in June 1983. Total distance run was 60 528 584 kilometres and operating revenues amounted to \$63,847,516.

For further information, order the June 1983 issue of *Urban Transit* (53-003, \$1.55/\$15.50), or contact the Surface Transport Unit (613-995-1976).

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Department Store Sales

Department store sales in Canada jumped by 16.4% from a year earlier to a total of \$920.2 million in June 1983. Sales for January-June 1983 reached \$4,550.8 million, up 6.7% from the 1982 period.

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

- Ontario, \$337.8 (+21.8%)
- Quebec, \$165.4 million (+21.6%)
- British Columbia, \$151.8 million (+7.8%)
- Alberta, \$127.5 million (+5.2%)
- Atlantic provinces, \$64.6 million (+23.8%)
- Manitoba, \$46.2 million (+13.0%)
- Saskatchewan, \$26.9 million (+19.5%).

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

Production of Raw Steel

Preliminary estimates show steel ingot production in July 1983 reached 1 012 256 tonnes, an increase of 22.7% from 824 632 tonnes a year earlier.

For further information, order the July 1983 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$2.65/\$26.50), or contact G. W. Barrett (613-992-0388).

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Weekly Bulletin

Published by the Federal and Media Relations Division, Statistics Canada

Senior Editor Greg Thomson
(613-593-7444).

Editor Brian Huggins (613-593-6971),
3J, R.H. Coals Building, Tunney's Pasture,
Ottawa K1A 0T6

Catalogue 11-002E Price Canada,
\$26.50 a year, other countries, \$31.80 a
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for Canada to Publication Sales and Ser-
vices, Statistics Canada, Ottawa
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Labour Force Survey

Canada's seasonally adjusted level of employment was estimated at 10,712,000 in the week ending July 16, 1983, an increase of 64,000 from June. Employment increased by 20,000 for males 25 years of age and over, by 17,000 for males aged 15 to 24, by 19,000 for females aged 15 to 24 and by 8,000 for females 25 and over. The estimated level of full-time employment was up 20,000 during the month, while the level of part-time employment rose 56,000. The major employment gains were registered in the transportation, communication and other utilities (+21,000), manufacturing (+13,000), services (+9,000) and construction (+7,000) industries. Employment increased an estimated 48,000 in Ontario; it remained virtually unchanged in the other provinces.

Unemployment was estimated at 1,460,000, seasonally adjusted in July, down 25,000 from June. Unemployment decreased by 13,000 for males aged 25 and over, by 5,000 for females in the same age group and by 8,000 for females aged 15 to 24. Provincially, unemployment decreased by 18,000 in Ontario, by 11,000 in Quebec and by 6,000 in British Columbia.

Canada's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 12.0% in July 1983 from 12.2% in June. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the provinces in July were as follows, with June rates in brackets: Newfoundland 19.2% (19.4%); Prince Edward Island 13.5% (13.5%); Nova Scotia 13.5% (13.2%); New Brunswick 15.1% (14.8%); Quebec 13.9% (14.2%); Ontario 10.4% (10.8%); Manitoba 9.6% (9.8%); Saskatchewan 6.7% (7.1%); Alberta 11.1% (11.1%); British Columbia 13.7% (14.1%).

The Canada seasonally adjusted participation rate increased by 0.2 in July to 64.7%; the employment/population ratio advanced to 56.9% from 56.6% in June.

The unadjusted employment level for Canada was estimated at 11,175,000 in July 1983, an increase of 173,000 (1.6%) from a year earlier. Unemployment was estimated at 1,409,000, up 1.7% from July 1982; the unemployment rate at 11.2% was unchanged from the same month in 1982. The employment/population ratio increased slightly to 59.4% from 59.2% in July 1982.

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

Oil Pipeline Transport

Net receipts of crude oil, condensates, pentanes plus, liquefied petroleum gases and petroleum products through Canadian oil pipelines during May 1983 decreased 5.8% to 10 165 133 cubic metres from 10 766 275 cubic metres for the same month of 1982.

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

New Motor Vehicle Sales

Retail sales of new motor vehicles in June 1983 continued to increase for the fourth consecutive month: total sales of all new motor vehicles rose 11.3% over June 1982 to 112,812 units. North American manufactured passenger cars accounted for 67,982 units (up 17.3% from a year earlier) and North American manufactured commercial vehicles for 18,992 units (down 2.7%). Sales of passenger cars made overseas totalled 20,537 units (down 2.3%), while overseas manufactured commercial vehicles registered their highest-ever recorded level with 5,301 units sold (up 85.9%).

The share of the Canadian passenger car market held by North American manufacturers in June 1983 (based on unit sales) was 76.8% compared to 73.4% in June 1982. Japanese manufacturers took 17.7% and European manufacturers 5.5% of the market in June 1983 compared with 21.4% and 5.2% last year.

The retail value of all new motor vehicles sold in June climbed 14.4% from a year earlier to a total of \$1,251.5 million. North American passenger cars sold for \$721.4 million (up 22.8%) and commercial vehicles for \$259.7 million (down 6.1%). Sales of passenger cars from overseas increased 7.7% to \$220.0 million and those of overseas commercial vehicles were up 98.0% to \$50.3 million. Included in total commercial vehicle sales were 359 coaches or buses (down 11.8%) valued at \$12.8 million (down 41.8%).

Total sales in units for the first six months of the year showed an increase of 10.8% compared with the same period last year and reached 553,360 units valued at \$6,083.1 million, up 13.1%.

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

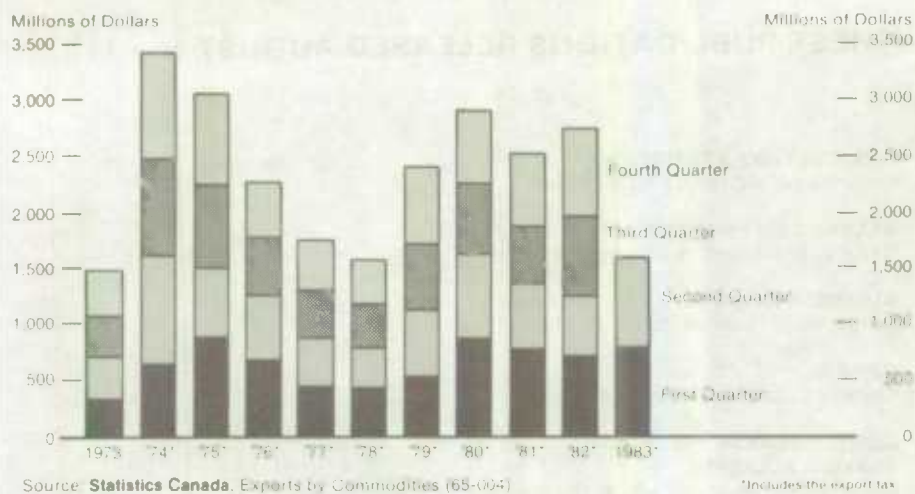
International Travel

Preliminary statistics for June 1983 show that 3.6 million United States residents entered Canada, up 2.1% from a year earlier. Visitors from countries other than the U.S. declined by 7.1% to 249,000. Canadian residents re-entering this country after visits to the U.S. numbered 3.3 million, up 18.4% from June 1982, while residents returning from other countries jumped by 26.4% to 117,000.

For the first six months of 1983, the international travel flows were as follows: 13.1 million U.S. residents entered Canada, up 1.4% from January-June 1982; visitors from countries other than the U.S. were down by 9.6% to 675,000; Canadians returning from the U.S. increased by 15.5% to 17.6 million, and residents re-entering from other countries numbered 885,000, up 11.6% from the same six-month period of 1982.

For further information, order the June 1983 issue of *International Travel — Advance Information* (66-002, \$1.55/\$15.50), or contact Paul L. Paradis (613-995-0847).

Canadian Exports of Crude Petroleum to the United States



Help-wanted Index

The seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index for Canada (1981=100) advanced to 51 in July 1983 from 48 in June.

From June to July, help-wanted indexes increased in the Atlantic region to 166 from 89, in Ontario to 53 from 46 and in the Prairie Provinces to 31 from 28. The index declined in July in Quebec to 47 from 64 and in British Columbia to 27 from 29.

It should be noted that the significant increase in the Atlantic region index resulted from a large help-wanted advertisement placed by the Newfoundland government and Labrador in the St. John's Evening Telegram newspaper during the survey period.

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

Restaurant Statistics

Preliminary estimates for June 1983 show that restaurant, caterer and tavern establishments in Canada had sales amounting to \$915.0 million, up 5.8% from June 1982.

Revised total receipts for these establishments for May 1983 were \$864.5 million, an increase of 2.4% from a year earlier.

For further information on provincial totals, by kinds of business or on chains compared with independents, order *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.

Coal Production in Canada

Canadian production of coal declined by 4.0% to 3 739 kilotonnes in May 1983 from 3 894 KT a year earlier. Exports of coal decreased by 9.0% to 1 521 KT from 1 671 KT, and landed imports were down 33.8% to 1 449 KT from 2 188 KT in May 1982.

Production of coal in the first five months of 1983 totalled 17 878 KT, down 4.2% from 18 631 KT in the January-May 1982 period.

Exports of coal dropped 8.0% to 6 439 KT from 6 955 KT and landed imports were down 65.5% to 2 354 KT from 3 896 KT.

For further information, order the May 1983 issue of *Coal and Coke Statistics* (45-002, \$2.65/\$26.50).

Employment in Industry

Preliminary estimates show that the number of employees at the Canada industrial aggregate level increased by 2.2% from April to May 1983. Increases were registered in all industries and all provinces.

At the Canada industrial aggregate level marginal increases were observed in average weekly earnings and average weekly hours; there was no change in average hourly earnings between the two months.

Detailed information for April and May will be published in the May 1983 issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, \$4.20/\$42), or may be obtained by calling the Labour Division (613-992-3868).

Telephone Statistics

Canada's 13 major telephone systems reported revenues of \$692.4 million in June 1983, up 9.2% from a year earlier. Operating expenses increased 2.2% to \$493.3 million. Net operating revenue at \$199.1 million climbed 31.3% from June 1982.

For further information, order the June 1983 issue of *Telephone Statistics* (56-002, \$1.55/\$15.50).

Railway Operating Statistics

Canada's seven major railways reported a combined net loss from operations of \$4.5 million in January 1983. Operating revenues of \$482.5 million increased by 11.4% from the 1982 level.

For further information, order the January 1983 issue of *Railway Operating Statistics* (52-003, \$2.65/\$26.50), or contact Y. Deslauriers (613-995-1976), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.



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Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers, June 1983	43-002	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Electricity Bills: For Domestic, Commercial and Small Power Service, 1983	57-203	\$4.75	\$5.70
Footwear Statistics, June 1983	33-002	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Gypsum Products, June 1983	44-003	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, May 1983	31-001	\$3.70/\$37	\$4.45/\$44.40
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation, June 1983	44-004	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Miscellaneous Non-metallic Mineral Manufacturers, 1981	44-220	\$6.35	\$7.60
Papermakers' and Other Felts, Quarter Ended June 1983	47-003	\$2.65/\$10.60	\$3.20/\$12.70
Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada, June 1983	47-004	\$1.55/\$15.50	\$1.85/\$18.60
Production of Selected Biscuits, Quarter Ended June 1983	32-026	\$2.65/\$10.60	\$3.20/\$12.70
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Department Store Sales and Stocks, May 1983	63-002	\$3.15/\$31.50	\$3.80/\$37.80
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Merchandising Inventories, May 1983	63-014	\$2.65/\$26.50	\$3.20/\$31.80
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