

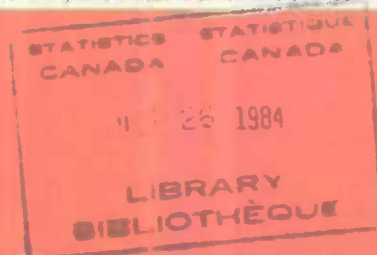


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Weekly Bulletin



October 26, 1984

## Manufacturing Industries

The seasonally adjusted value of shipments in all Canadian manufacturing industries rose 3.0% to an estimated \$19,757.7 million in August 1984, from the revised total of \$19,179.2 million in July. Shipments of durable goods were up 7.4% to \$9,253.2 million from \$8,614.3 million. The increase is largely attributable to a gain of \$665.2 million in transportation equipment industries. There was, however, an \$81.4 million loss in primary metal industries. In non-durable goods industries, shipments were down 0.6% to \$10,504.5 million from \$10,564.9 million.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, the value of new orders received in August 1984 rose 6.5% to \$20,078.6 million from the revised July estimate of \$18,837.3 million. In durable goods industries, new orders were valued at an estimated \$9,576.0 million, 15.4% higher than the July value of \$8,300.7 million. Most of this increase can be attributed to gains of \$990.5 million in transportation equipment industries. In non-durable goods industries, the value of new orders received reached \$10,502.6 million, down 0.3% from the revised estimate of \$10,536.6 million in July 1984.

The seasonally adjusted unfilled orders backlog at the end of August was \$22,471.0

(continued page 2, col. 1)

## Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada (1981=100) rose to a level of 123.0 in September, a modest 0.1% increase over its August level of 122.9. This rise reflected the largely offsetting impact of a 0.7% decrease in the food component, combined with generally moderate increases in five of the other six components. Of these gains, most notable was a 0.3% rise in the housing index. The transportation index remained unchanged overall as increases in private transportation costs were offset by a decline in the public transportation index. While the food index decreased 0.7%, the all-items excluding food index rose by 0.3%.

The year-to-year increase in the CPI, as measured by comparing the index level for September 1984 to that of September 1983, was 3.8%. This was virtually unchanged from the 3.7% increase in August.

(continued page 2, col. 2)

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	July	405.12	406.84	4.1
Labour Income (\$ million)	July	19,588.4	19,962.7	4.8
Persons with Jobs (million)	Sept.	11.16	10.95	1.9
Unemployed	Sept.	1,363,000	1,269,000	7.4

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Aug.*	3,434.7	3,304.7	6.8
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Aug.*	32,575.4	32,411.6	8.9

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Aug.*	19,176.6	17,336.6	12.7
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Aug.*	22,354.2	22,126.0	33.9

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Sept.*	123.0	122.9	3.8
New House Price Index (1981=100)	July	95.2	95.3	0.6
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Aug.	215.0	217.1	1.3
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Aug.	159.1	162.5	2.6
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Aug.	312.2	312.5	3.6

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	July	1,320.7	8,556.4	2.6
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Aug.	11,029	75,027	-20.7

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	June	4,666	27,702	28.4
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	June	31.1	214.1	9.5
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	June	6,187	45,062	7.6
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	July	8.0	49.1	8.5

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Aug.	9,011	74,132	28.2
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Aug.	8,059	62,054	33.5

### PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Aug.	20.9	158.3	20.4
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	July	1,117	8,696	24.6

### SALES

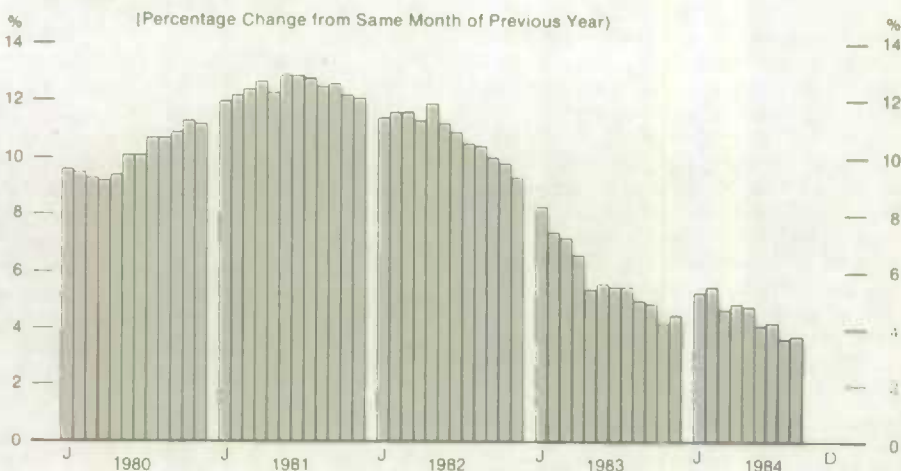
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Aug.*	873.0	6,506.5	4.7
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Aug.*	18,948.4	148,872.6	16.0
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	1,186.5	10,749.9	34.5
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	9,768.3	73,432.8	9.5

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

\* - new this week.

## Consumer Price Index for Canada (CPI)

(1981=100)



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

### ...Manufacturing Industries

million, a 1.4% increase from the previous month's revised estimate of \$22,150.1 million. Unfilled orders in durable goods industries increased 1.6% to \$20,211.1 million from the end-of-July total of \$19,888.3 million, and in non-durable goods industries, the estimate was down 0.1% to \$2,259.9 million from \$2,261.8 million.

Seasonally adjusted inventories owned by manufacturers at the end of August remained virtually unchanged at \$32,704.7 million from the previous month's revised value of \$32,688.7 million. Total inventory held increased 0.1% to \$33,759.1 million from \$33,718.0 million in July, with a 1.2% increase in goods-in-process, a 0.4% decline in raw materials and no change in finished products.

The seasonally adjusted ratio of total inventory owned to shipments at the end of August was 1.66:1, down from 1.70:1 in July. The ratio of finished products inventory to shipments went from 0.62:1 in July to 0.60:1 in August.

*Order the August 1984 issue of Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries (31-001, \$3.85/\$38.50), or contact J. LePage (613-990-9832), Shipments, Inventories and Orders Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

### Wholesale Trade

Canadian wholesale merchants reported moderate sales increases in August 1984, advancing 7.5% over the same period last year. Revised sales for July 1984 were up 13.0% from the July 1983 level.

In August 1984, all major trade groups except farm machinery and equipment (-6.6%) and lumber and building materials (-1.4%) registered sales increases from a year earlier. The most notable gains were reported by the following groups: apparel, dry goods, furniture and general merchandise (16.3%), tobacco, drugs and toilet preparations (13.3%), other wholesalers (11.3%), and other machinery, equipment and supplies (11.2%). All regions posted sales increases over August 1983, ranging from 13.9% in the Atlantic provinces to 2.6% in the Prairie provinces.

Cumulative sales by wholesale merchants during the first eight months of 1984 rose 13.3% over the January-August 1983 period. Exceptional gains were reported by wholesalers of motor vehicles and accessories (26.6%), and metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment (21.8%).

Wholesale inventories increased by 7.9% in August 1984 from the corresponding period in 1983. Revised inventories for July 1984 were up 6.2% from the July 1983 level.

The year-to-year increase in inventories recorded in August 1984 is the eighth consecutive monthly increase, and indicates that wholesalers are continuing the process of replenishing inventories.

*Order the August 1984 issue of Wholesale Trade (63-008, \$1.60/\$16), or contact the Wholesale Trade Section (613-990-9679), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

### ...Consumer Price Index

The 0.7% decrease in the food index was largely due to the continuing seasonal price reductions for most vegetables, with potato and tomato prices having the greatest downward impact. Lower prices for fresh fruit and for certain beef cuts also contributed to this decline. Price increases for chicken, dairy products and restaurant meals only partially offset the impact of these declines on the food index.

The 0.3% increase in the housing component, largely the result of higher prices for household furnishings and equipment and increases in the rent and fuel oil indexes, was the most important contributing factor in the 0.3% rise in the all-items excluding food index. Other significant contributing factors to the increase in this index were higher prices for women's wear and to a lesser extent, for men's wear, as well as higher postsecondary tuition fees in most provinces. Higher prices for gasoline, the result of the end of "price wars" in certain cities, combined with the termination of specials for rented automobiles, resulted in an increase of 0.2% in the private transportation index. This was offset by a decrease in the public transportation index due to lower air fares. Between September 1983 and September 1984, the index for all-items excluding food increased by 3.3%, unchanged from the rise observed in August.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the all-items index increased 0.2% between August and September, comprising an increase of 0.4% in the food component, and a 0.1% rise in the all-items excluding food index. During the three-month period, June to September, the all-items index rose at a seasonally-adjusted compounded annual rate of change of 4.1%, up from the 2.8% observed during the three-month period ending in August.

*Order the August 1984 issue of The Consumer Price Index (62-001, \$2.75/\$27.50), or contact Sandra Shadlock or Suzanne Gratton (613-990-9606), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

### Union Wage Rate

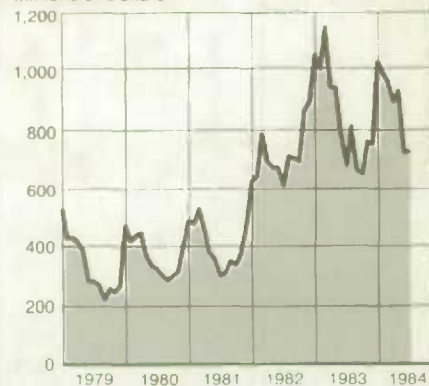
The Canada total Union Wage Rate Index for construction trades (including supplements) registered no change between August and September 1984, remaining at a level of 127.4 (1981=100).

In September, the total Union Wage Rate Index for construction trades stood 0.9% above its year-earlier level of 126.3. By city, the largest year-over-year increase was recorded for Halifax (10.8%); in contrast, St. John's, Newfoundland showed a marked decrease (-5.7%). Indexes for cities surveyed in Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia showed no change while increases ranging from 0.8% to 4.2% were posted by metropolitan areas in the remaining provinces.

*Order Construction Price Statistics (62-007, \$3.30/\$33), or contact Prices Division (613-990-9601), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

### Unemployment Insurance Commission Benefit Payments

Millions of Dollars



Source: Statistics Canada, Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act (73-001)

### Unemployment Insurance

The estimated number of Canadians receiving unemployment insurance benefits in 1983 increased 8.7% to almost 3.4 million from slightly over 3.1 million in 1982. Increases over the two-year period were observed in all provinces and territories. The annual changes ranged from a high of 30.7% in Alberta to a low of 3.0% in Quebec. By age group, 30.2% (32.7% in 1982) of the beneficiaries were less than 25 years old, 49.2% (47.4%) were between the ages 25 to 44, and 20.6% (19.9%) were 45 years or older.

In 1983, the average duration of benefit periods prior to termination was 25.4 weeks, up from the 22.2 weeks estimated in 1982. It must be noted that a benefit period may commence in one year and be terminated the following year. Also, the establishment and termination of benefit periods does not necessarily mean that a person received benefits; for example, a claimant may find new employment prior to receiving unemployment insurance benefits.

The average duration of benefit periods terminated was higher for females than for males, registering 26.3 weeks (23.0 weeks in 1982) and 24.9 weeks (21.6 weeks) respectively.

The average total payment per benefit period terminated rose 19.6% to an estimated \$3,524 from \$2,947 in 1982. While the average duration on claim is higher for women than for men, their average total payment in 1983 was \$700 less. The increases in the average total payment between 1982 and 1983 were \$604 for males and \$496 for females; however, the relative advance of approximately 19% was the same for both sexes.

*Data for the years 1977 to 1983 will be published in Benefit Periods Established and Terminated under the Unemployment Insurance Act to be released in the autumn of 1985 (73-201, \$6.65). Contact Horst Stiebert or Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-990-9900), Unemployment Insurance Statistics Section.*



## Incomes of Individuals Aged 15 Years and Over, 1982

A microdata tape containing information on income received by individuals aged 15 years and over during 1982 is now available. The 12 sources of income reported on the tape, as well as the 1982 work experience information, were collected in the 1983 Survey of Consumer Finances. Data from this survey are published annually in *Income Distributions by Size in Canada* (13-207, \$11.10).

In addition to income, the microdata tape contains personal and labour-related characteristics, including age, sex, education, family relationship, industry, occupation and class of worker; these data were obtained from a survey accompanying the April 1983 Labour Force Survey. As well, some family characteristics are included, such as number of wage earners, status vis-à-vis low-income cut-offs, number of persons and number of unemployment insurance recipients.

Contact Robert Allard (613-990-9775), Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Construction Activity

The leading indicator of construction activity in Canada (1971=100) continued to progress in June 1984, advancing slightly (0.3%) from May to a level of 91.2. The deceleration of the index from a more rapid growth rate is primarily due to slackening within the residential sector.

After four months of constant increase, the leading indicator of residential construction weakened (-0.8%) in June to 91.2. The retreat of the residential index is mainly attributable to a decline in the August level of intentions to 104,500 units (seasonally adjusted at an annual rate) compared to the previous month's level of 172,000 units. The slackening of building intentions occurred in both single and multi-family dwellings. The overall decline in the level of residential construction intentions was accentuated by downturns in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

The non-residential index continued to rise in June, moving up 1.9% from May to 90.6; this represents a 22.6% increase from the June 1983 index. Gains were recorded in the industrial (3.4%) and commercial (2.9%) sectors, while the government component regressed slightly (-1.1%).

Order the July 1984 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$3.85/\$38.50), or contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-990-9689).

## Statistics Canada Catalogue Supplement

Changes in the Statistics Canada publication program which have occurred between January 1 and June 30, 1984 are detailed in the new catalogue supplement which provides:

- abstracts for new publications;
- lists of discontinued publications;
- title, price and other changes; and
- a title, subject and commodity index for new publications with a separate index for census publications.

Single copies of the supplement (one English and one French) are available free of charge from any of the Statistics Canada Advisory Services reference centres. Users listed on the 1984 Catalogue mailing list will automatically receive this supplement.

## Restaurants

Preliminary receipts for August 1984 reported by Canadian restaurants, caterers and taverns were \$1,059.7 million, up 11.8% from August 1983.

Order *Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns* (63-011, \$1.60/\$16).

## Refined Petroleum Products and Natural Gas

Preliminary estimates show sales of refined petroleum products in Canada in August 1984 decreased 5.2% from a year earlier, while sales of natural gas increased 16.2%.

### Refined Petroleum Products

During August 1984, sales of petroleum products by Canadian refiners and major distributors amounted to 6 721 200 cubic metres, down 5.2% from the level recorded in August 1983. Production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners totalled 8 675 000 cubic metres, a 6.2% increase from August 1983.

Between January and August 1984, sales of refined petroleum products rose 1.5% from the year-earlier level to 51 953 015 cubic metres. Year-to-date sales of the main products were as follows: motor gasoline, 21 933 884 cubic metres (+0.1%); diesel fuel, 9 730 058 cubic metres (+9.7%); light fuel oil, 5 321 009 cubic metres (-2.9%) and heavy fuel oil, 4 804 766 cubic metres (-9.1%). Year-to-date production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners rose 8.6% from the same period in 1983, totalling 60 070 021 cubic metres.

### Natural Gas

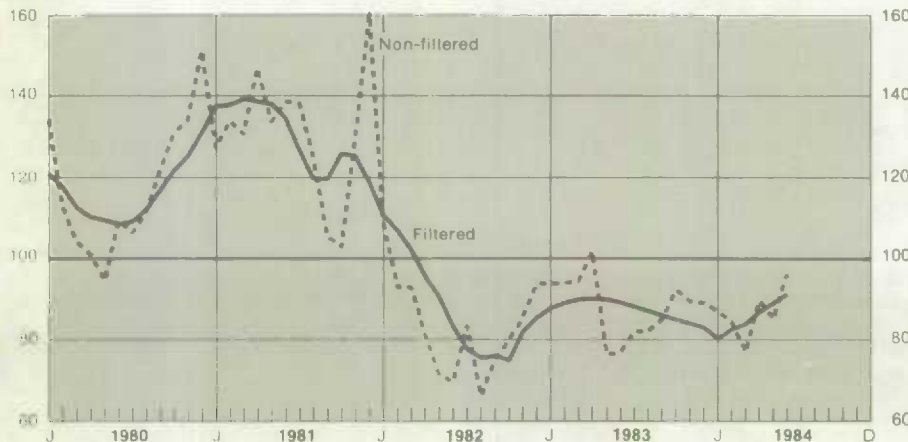
Sales of natural gas by main distributors amounted to 2 412 991 000 cubic metres in August 1984, a 16.2% rise from the level recorded in August 1983.

During the first eight months of 1984, sales of natural gas reached 31 143 606 000 cubic metres, 10.3% higher than the level recorded during the same period of 1983. In terms of rate structure information, sales were broken down as follows: residential sales, 8 148 525 000 cubic metres (+9.5%); commercial sales, 6 568 687 000 cubic metres (+5.8%) and industrial sales, 16 426 394 000 cubic metres (+12.5%).

Order the August 1984 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, \$3.85/\$38.50), and *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$2.75/\$27.50).

## Indexes of Construction Activity in Canada

1971=100



Source: Statistics Canada, Building Permits (64-001)

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Weekly Bulletin

Published by the Federal and Media Relations Division, Statistics Canada.

Editor: Lyne Bélanger-Paré  
(613-993-7644), R.H. Coats Building,  
Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Catalogue 11-002E Price: Canada, \$27.75 a year, other countries, \$33.30 a year. To subscribe: send money order or cheque payable to the Receiver General for Canada to Publication Sales and Services, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED OCTOBER 19 — 25

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
<b>AGRICULTURE STATISTICS</b>			
Farm cash receipts, January-August 1984	21-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Fruit and vegetable production, October 1984	22-003	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Index numbers of farm prices of agricultural products, August 1984	62-003	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
<b>BUSINESS FINANCE</b>			
Cheques cashed, August 1984	61-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>			
The non-residential general building contracting industry, 1982	64-207	\$6.65	\$7.95
The residential building contracting industry, 1982	64-208	\$6.65	\$7.95
<b>EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM</b>			
Culture statistics, Book publishing: A financial analysis, 1978-1981	87-523	\$8.85	\$10.60
<b>HEALTH</b>			
Vital statistics — quarterly, April-June 1984	84-001	\$2.75/\$11	\$3.30/\$13.20
<b>LABOUR</b>			
Employment, earnings and hours, July 1984	72-002	\$5.55/\$55.50	\$6.65/\$66.50
Estimates of labour income, April-June 1984	72-005	\$5.55/\$22.20	\$6.65/\$26.60
Preliminary unemployment insurance statistics, July 1984	73-001P	free	free
<b>MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES</b>			
Cement, August 1984	44-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Construction type plywood, August 1984	35-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Electric power statistics, Volume I: Annual electric power survey of capability and load, 1983 actual and 1984-1993 forecast	57-204	\$6.65	\$7.95
Factory sales of electric storage batteries, August 1984	43-005	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Footwear statistics, August 1984	33-002	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins, August 1984	46-002	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Monthly production of soft drinks, September 1984	32-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Oil pipe line transport, July 1984	55-001	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Oils and fats, August 1984	32-006	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Particleboard, waferboard and hardboard, August 1984	36-003	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Production and sales of phonograph records and pre-recorded tapes in Canada, August 1984	47-004	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Production and shipments of steel pipe, tubing and fittings, August 1984	41-011	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, August 1984	25-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Rigid insulating board, August 1984	36-002	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Steel wire and specified wire products, August 1984	41-006	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
<b>Service Bulletin</b>			
Fruit and vegetable preservation, vol. 13, no. 3, Pack of processed strawberries, 1984	32-023	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
<b>MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES</b>			
Restaurant, caterer and tavern statistics, July 1984	63-011	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
<b>PRICES</b>			
Consumer price index, September 1984	62-001	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
<b>SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY</b>			
Federal scientific activities, 1984/1985	88-204E	\$7.75	\$9.30
<b>TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
Air carrier traffic at Canadian airports, Fourth quarter 1983	51-005	\$8.35/\$33.40	\$10/\$40.05
Motor carriers — Freight and household goods movers, 1982	53-222	\$8.85	\$10.60
Railway carloadings, August 1984	52-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Telecommunications statistics, 1980	56-201	\$5	\$6
Telephone statistics, August 1984	56-002	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19

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Publications can also be ordered through Statistics Canada's offices in St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Sturgeon Falls, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver, or from bookstore agents or other booksellers.