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Weekly Bulletin

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Unemployment Insurance

In 1983, the total cost of Canada's unemployment insurance program was an estimated \$11 billion, up \$1.7 billion from 1982 and \$8.8 billion from 1973. Most of this money was spent on benefit payments.

Unemployment Insurance 1984, an historical study covering the 1970s and early 1980s, reports that benefit payments represented 2.6% of the Gross National Product (GNP) in 1983 and 2.5% in 1982. During the period 1979 to 1981, payments averaged 1.5% of the GNP. In the 1970s, the corresponding percentage ranged from about 1.5% to 2.0%.

On average, in mid-month reference weeks during 1982, over one million persons were receiving unemployment insurance benefits. This corresponded to about 1.1% of all paid workers. From 1978 to 1981 the average number of persons receiving unemployment insurance payments ranged from 700,000 to 800,000, representing 7.0% to 8.0% of paid workers in those years.

The number of people drawing regular benefits corresponded to 10.2% of the number of paid workers in 1983. This compares with 9.6% in 1982, 5.8% in 1981 and 6.8% in 1976. There was considerable variation among provinces; in December 1983, the level ranged from 33.0% in Newfoundland to 6.6% in Saskatchewan and Ontario. Other provinces with above average rates were Prince Edward Island (24.4%), New Brunswick (23.8%), Nova Scotia (14.2%), Quebec (12.6%) and British Columbia (11.6%). The rate for Canada during that month was 10.0%.

The highest proportion of workers drawing regular benefits was concentrated in the younger age groups. In 1982, 14.3% of workers 20-24 years old, and 10.3% of workers 25-34 years old drew these benefits. This compared to a figure of 8.0% for workers over 35 years old.

In 1982, benefit payments amounted to 5.7% of personal income in the Atlantic provinces, 3.7% in Quebec and 3.0% in British Columbia. In the same year, payments amounted to 2.0% of personal income in Ontario and 1.6% in the Prairie provinces.

In 1982 and the three preceding years, average weekly benefit payments corresponded to 37.0% of average wages and salaries. This compares with 41.0% (continued page 2, col. 1)

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Sept.*	407.97	405.49	2.9
Labour Income (\$ million)	Aug.	19,619.2	19,734.7	5.5
Persons with Jobs (million)	Oct.	11.15	11.16	2.3
Unemployed	Oct.	1,305,000	1,363,000	4.2

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Sept.	3,325.5	3,434.7	0.5
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Sept.	32,685.4	32,644.6	8.6

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Sept.	18,939.9	19,073.2	-12.8
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Sept.	22,077.0	22,265.2	8.7

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Oct.	123.2	123.0	3.4
New House Price Index (1981=100)	Sept.	94.8	95.1	-0.1
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Sept.	212.7	214.1	0.8
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Sept.	156.1	158.4	2.0
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Sept.	312.0	312.5	3.6

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Aug.	1,275.4	10,059.2	4.2
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Sept.	9,545	84,572	-19.1

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Sept.*	4,871	41,684	30.7
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Sept.*	31.5	311.1	8.7
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Sept.*	6,560	64,040	8.5
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Sept.*	6.2	65.6	3.5

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Sept.	9,430	83,521	27.4
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Sept.	7,238	69,243	31.0

PRODUCTION

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

SALES

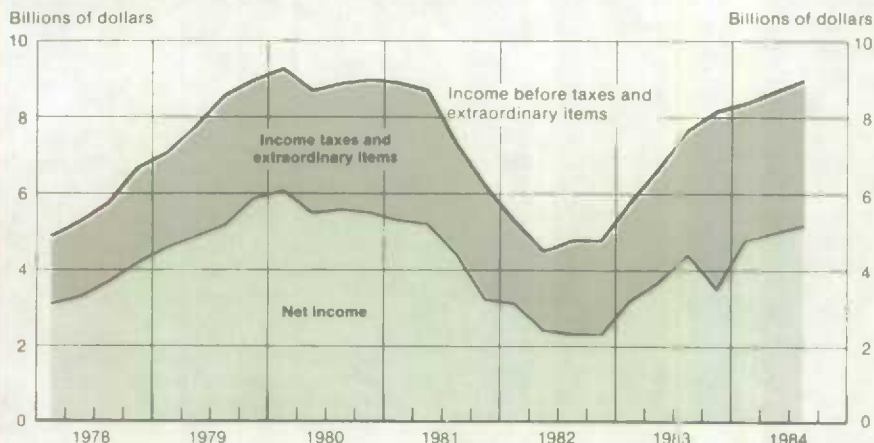
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Sept.	947.9	7,454.4	4.4
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Sept.	19,128.1	167,986.3	14.7
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Sept.	1,013.2	11,808.1	32.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Sept.	9,281.7	82,738.0	8.8

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* — new this week.

Corporation Profits Industrial Corporations Sector

(Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Statistics Canada, Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics (61-003)

Canada

...Unemployment Insurance

between 1972 and 1978. The change in pattern is in large measure accounted for by the legislated reduction to benefit payments as a percent of insured earnings.

The most common reason in recent years for denial of benefits (through disqualification or disentitlement) is that the claimant was not unemployed or did not have an interruption of earnings. The proportion of disqualifications and disentitlements for this reason has increased considerably during the years under study.

This report is one of seven in a series on national social security programs.

Contact Peter Mix (613-990-8382), Health Division.

Household Facilities

The report, *Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics, 1983* contains tables relating 1983 household and dwelling characteristics as well as facilities and equipment present, to the 1982 income of households.

Here are some highlights:

Household Size

In 1983, average household size ranged from 1.82 persons per household for households with income under \$12,000 to 3.57 persons for households with income \$45,000 and over.

While 50.6% of higher income households contained four or more members, only 33.7% of middle-income households and 9.3% of lower income households were of comparable size.

Home Ownership

Over 85% of higher income households and 63.4% of middle-income households owned their dwelling in 1983. By comparison, 60% of lower income households were renters and 40% were homeowners.

A higher proportion of lower income homeowners owned their dwelling mortgage-free, largely due to the prevalence of households with individuals 65 years of age and over. Over three-quarters of homeowners with income under \$12,000 had no mortgage, compared to 42% of homeowners with income \$45,000 and over.

Among households in the lower income group, only 23.9% lived in a dwelling constructed after 1970, in contrast with 36.3% of higher income households.

Household Facilities

While there was very little difference by income class in the proportion of households having bath facilities, multiple bath facilities were more frequently found in higher income households. Almost four out of 10 higher income households had two or more bathtubs or showers, compared to 15.4% of middle-income households and 5.6% of lower income households.

One-third of all households had an automatic dishwasher in 1983, and 12.5% were equipped with a microwave oven. However, it is interesting that the average incomes of households with these appliances, at \$40,543 and \$42,407 respectively, were

Industrial Production

The index of industrial production fell 1.9% to 141.4 in September 1984 from 144.1 in August. This follows a 0.5% drop in August, and a 3.6% gain in July. Industrial production advanced 3.2% in the third quarter, compared to gains of 0.8% and 0.6% in the two previous quarters.

The decline in September was concentrated in manufacturing industries which fell 2.2%. The greatest decreases in output were in manufacturers of motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts, office and store machinery, rubber and plastic products, sawmills and iron and steel mills.

Output of utilities declined 2.4% due to lower electric power generation and decreased natural gas sales. A large increase in the production of potash accounted for most of the gain in mining.

Order the September 1984 issue of *Gross Domestic Product by Industry* (61-005, \$3.85/\$38.50), or contact Ron Kennedy (613-990-9145), Industry Product Division.

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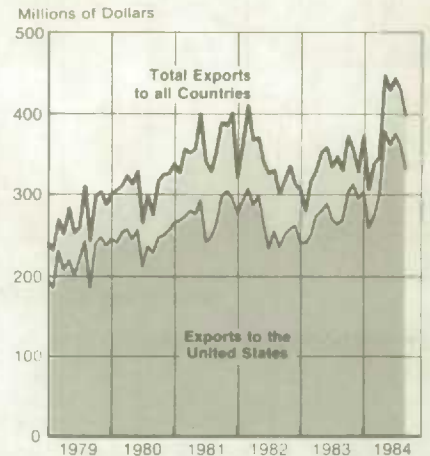
substantially higher than for other household goods. In the highest income group, 63.1% of households had a dishwasher and 26.0% a microwave oven.

Similarly, while video recorders were found in 6.4% of homes, the average income of households with this item was \$43,306. Only 2.2% of lower income households had a video recorder, compared to 13.2% of higher income households.

Eight out of 10 households owned at least one automobile in 1983, and 27.8% owned two or more. In the higher income category, almost 60% of households owned more than one automobile.

Order *Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics, 1983* (13-567, \$8.85), or contact Penny Barclay or Cindy Veness (613-990-9775), Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, or contact Robert Allard (613-990-9775).

Exports of Newsprint Paper



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

Employment and Earnings

The preliminary estimates of employment at the Canada industrial aggregate level increased by 1.2% from August to September 1984. Increases were registered in forestry, construction, transportation, communication and other utilities and in service while the remaining industry divisions decreased or were unchanged. Declines were noted in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec and the Yukon Territory; all remaining provinces and the Northwest Territory increased.

Average weekly earnings at the Canada industrial aggregate level increased by 0.6% from \$405.49 in August to \$407.97 in September. All industry divisions increased except transportation, communication and other utilities, trade and finance, insurance and real estate. All provinces reported increases except Manitoba, Alberta, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Order the September issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, \$5.55/\$55.50), or contact the Labour Division (613-990-9900).

Estimates of Population

Canada's population at July 1, 1984 totalled an estimated 25,150,400. Population figures for the provinces and territories were as follows:

- Newfoundland, 579,800
- Prince Edward Island, 125,400
- Nova Scotia, 870,500
- New Brunswick, 713,900
- Quebec, 6,553,300
- Ontario, 8,947,700
- Manitoba, 1,057,400
- Saskatchewan, 1,007,700
- Alberta, 2,349,700
- British Columbia, 2,873,500
- Yukon, 22,000
- Northwest Territories, 49,500

Order *Quarterly Estimates of Population for Canada and the Provinces* (91-001, \$2.75/\$11), or contact Lise Ofori-Attah, (613-990-9579), Demography Division.

Composite Leading Indicator

The filtered composite leading index was essentially unchanged in August. The manufacturing indicators continued to grow in August, reflecting the continuation of the expansion of auto production for the third quarter at least, as orders fell sharply in September. Weakness was evident in the indicators for personal expenditure, United States demand, and financial markets. In the past, a decline in the filtered leading indicator has signalled, with a high degree of certainty, the onset within a half-year of a period of at least weaker economic growth. The mixed nature of the evidence to date suggests that the index is currently signalling slower but still positive cyclical growth in the short term.

Both indicators for sales of consumer goods declined in August for the first time since the recovery began. It was the first decline for new motor vehicle sales (-0.16%). The restraining influence of the increase of nominal interest rates between February and August 1984 and still weak income growth has been most evident for these credit-sensitive goods, which declined for the fourth consecutive month in August (-1.01%). Nominal labour income declined in August (-0.5%), another indication that consumer spending will soon weaken.

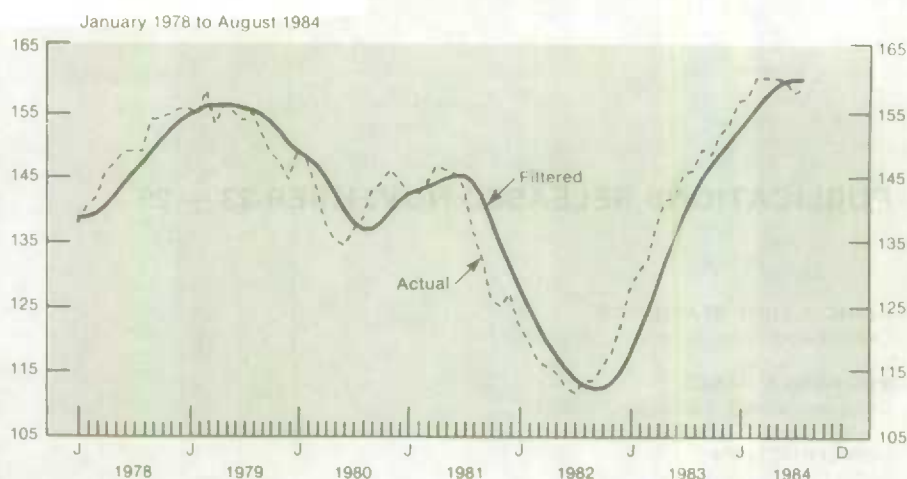
The index of residential construction rose for the third straight month in August (+1.09%), although the rate of growth eased. Preliminary data for September show that the level of housing starts has remained little changed for five consecutive quarters. The sharp upturn of building permits in July (in the non-filtered version) was reversed in August, returning to about its average level to date in 1984, which broadly indicates a plateauing of work-put-in-place in the short term. The number of mortgage loan approvals edged down in August. Housing activity should be supported to year-end by the impending expiry of the *Corvée-Habitation* program of subsidies to first-time home buyers in Quebec and some stimulative features of the RHOSP program, which is of particular importance in Central Canada.

The leading indicator for the United States recorded a second consecutive decline (-0.35%), partly due to a weakening of household demand. This slowdown did not affect total export growth in the third quarter, due to the surge in shipments of passenger cars in August to rebuild stocks in the U.S. before strikes. A deterioration in the terms of trade, originating in weak international commodity prices, will further restrain profits in primary industries.

The financial market indicators continued to decline in August: the real money supply (M1) fell 0.92% and the Toronto stock index registered its seventh straight drop (-0.75%). The lead times of these components are among the longest within the composite index.

Order *Current Economic Analysis* (13-004E, Canada: \$2.75/\$27.50; Other Countries: \$2.30/\$33), or contact D. Rhoades (613-990-9161), *Current Economic Analysis Division*.

The Canadian Composite Leading Index (1971=100)



International Travel Account

Preliminary estimates for the first nine months of 1984 show that Canada earned \$3,668 million from international travel, up 12.3% from 1983. During the same period, Canadians travelling abroad increased their payments by 9.9% to \$5,301 million, leaving the international travel account with a deficit of \$1,633 million compared to last year's deficit of \$1,558 million.

In the third quarter of the year, Canada registered a surplus of \$289 million, compared with a surplus of \$145 million in 1983. Receipts from the United States totalled \$1,495 million, up 9.9% from last year, while those from visitors from all other countries increased by 8.8% to \$568 million. Payments by Canadians to the United States amounted to \$998 million, 6.3% below last year, while payments to all other countries increased by 15.5% to \$776 million.

Order the July-September issue of *Travel Between Canada and Other Countries* (66-001, \$8.35/\$33.40) or contact Paul L. Paradis (613-990-8932), *International Travel Section*.

Energy Statistics

Preliminary data for the first three quarters of 1984 show that Canadian production and export levels of the main energy forms were higher than those recorded during the corresponding period of 1983.

Crude Oil and Refined Petroleum Products

Canadian production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons during the first nine months of 1984 rose by 7.9% to 66 251 million litres. The production increase partially reflected an improvement of 20.2% in the volume of exports; 14 885 million litres of crude oil and equivalents were exported in the first three quarters of 1984. Imports of crude oil showed little change rising 0.7% to 10 778 million litres.

Canadian refineries increased their production of refined petroleum products by 3.5% to 65 634 million litres. Year-over-year domestic sales figures for these products showed no significant change. Exports and imports have risen 15.9% and 63.4% respectively.

Natural Gas and NGLs

Production of natural gas reached 64 040 million cubic metres during the first nine months of 1984, up 8.5%. Natural gas liquids produced at processing plants amounted to 10 590 million litres, an increase of 14.6% from the same period in 1983. Exports of natural gas improved by 4.6% to 14 923 million cubic metres.

Coal

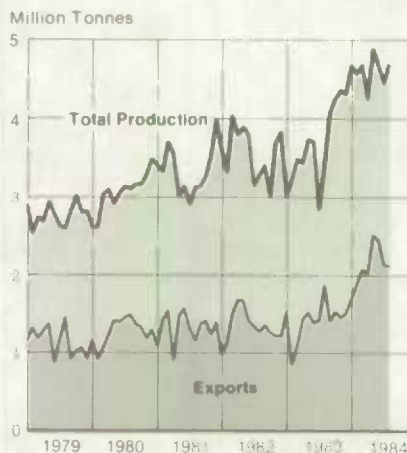
Coal production rose 30.7% to 41 684 kilotonnes, 43.8% of the coal produced has been exported. Exports totalled 18 252 kilotonnes during the nine-month period, an increase of 45.8% over the levels recorded in the same period of 1983. Imports have risen 66.1% to 14 466 kilotonnes.

Electricity

Electricity generation increased 8.7% during the first nine months of 1984 to 311 058 million kilowatt hours. Exports have increased by 10.0%.

Contact Richard Godin (613-990-9823), *Energy Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division*.

Coal Production and Exports





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Building permits, August 1984	64-001	\$3.85/\$38.50	\$4.60/\$46
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Household facilities by income and other characteristics, 1983	13-567	\$8.85	\$10.60
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