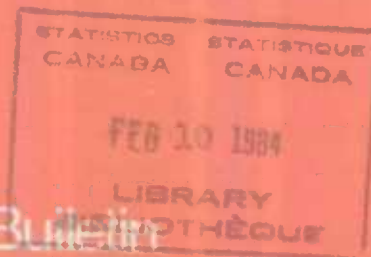


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Weekly Bulletin



February 10, 1984

## Merchandise Trade

In 1983, Canada posted a merchandise trade surplus of \$18.0 billion, \$0.3 billion lower than the record 1982 surplus of \$18.3 billion. It was, however, more than double the 1981 surplus of \$7.4 billion and the 1980 surplus of \$8.8 billion. The 1983 trade surplus decrease was the result of stronger growth in imports (10.6%) than in exports (7.9%). High among main contributors to the surplus were forest products, cereals and cereal preparations, natural gas and motor vehicle products.

### Trade, December 1983

#### Month-to-Month

On a seasonally adjusted balance-of-payments basis, preliminary results indicate that Canada's total exports posted a marginal decline of 0.2% or \$15 million to \$8.6 billion in December 1983, following a 10.4% increase in November and declines of 0.4% in October and 0.2% in September. Imports accelerated with an increase of 3.5% or \$230 million to \$7.0 billion, after an increase of 1.7% in November, a decline of 1.3% in October and an increase of 4.9% in September. As a result, the merchandise trade surplus diminished by \$245 million to \$1.6 billion in December, following increases of \$690 million in November and \$55 million in October and a decline of \$330 million in September.

#### Quarter-to-Quarter

Exports increased 8.3% or \$1.9 billion to \$24.9 billion in the fourth quarter of 1983, following increases of 1.5% in the third quarter, 9.2% in the second quarter and 2.4% in the first. Imports increased 7.2% or \$1.4 billion to \$20.3 billion in the fourth quarter, after increases of 9.5% in the third quarter, 3.9% in the second quarter and 9.2% in the first. As a result, Canada's trade surplus reached a level of \$4.6 billion in the fourth quarter of 1983, an increase of \$0.5 billion over the third quarter \$4.0 billion surplus, \$5.3 billion in the second quarter, a record level, and \$4.1 billion in the first quarter.

For further information, order the December 1983 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, \$3.30/\$33), or contact Gordon Blaney (613-995-6305), Trade Inquiries Unit, or François Bordé (613-995-6115), Trade Measures and Analysis Section, External Trade Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Nov.	394.20	395.58r	
Labour Income (\$ million)	Nov.*	18,829.3p	18,958.1p	7.5
Persons with Jobs (million)	Jan.*	10.44	10.63	3.1
Unemployed	Jan.*	1,473,000	1,821,000	-8.6

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Nov.	3,854.9	3,732.9	14.2
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Nov.	30,438.1p	30,385.9r	-5.9

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Nov.	18,398.9p	18,137.7r	17.8
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Nov.	20,398.5p	20,379.1r	26.9

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Dec.	119.6	119.2	4.5
New House Price Index (1976=100)	Dec.	131.7	131.8	1.6
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Dec.	211.6p	210.6p	4.9
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Dec.	154.0p	152.5p	6.9
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Dec.	302.7p	301.6p	3.6

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Nov.	1,072.3p	13,296.5p	13.3
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Dec.	10,322	134,207	28.1

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Nov.	4 358	40 511	3.9
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Nov.	35.4	354.1	3.7
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Oct.	7 846.1	76 035.6	-4.7
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Nov.	7.5p	78.9p	-4.6

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Dec.*	8,284p	91,259p	7.9
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Dec.*	6,304p	73,259p	10.6

### PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Dec.	16.6p	206.9p	3.7
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Dec.	1 078.3p	12 745p	8.4

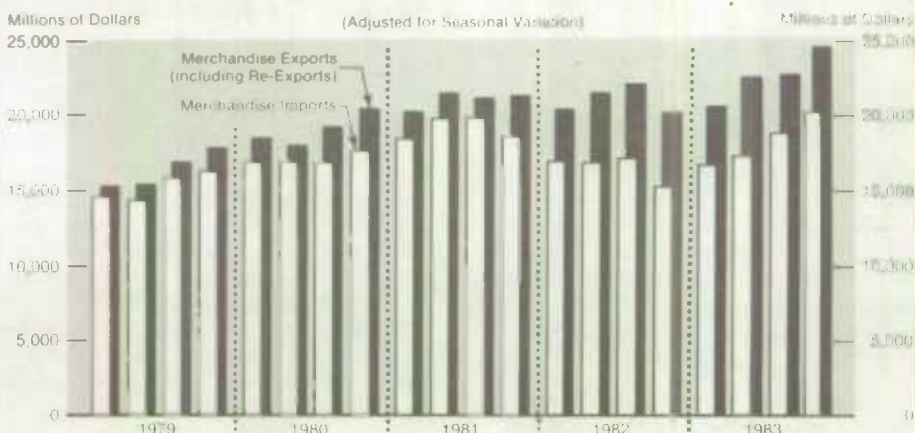
### SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Dec.*	1,731.1	10,929.5	7.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Nov.	18,379.5p	183,233.7p	8.1
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Nov.	1,200.0	11,298.0	24.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Nov.	9,297.3p	93,485.5p	7.4

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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## Weekly Bulletin

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### Building Permits

After rising 17.0% to a seasonally adjusted level of \$1,329.1 million in October 1983, the value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities dropped 13.1% to a preliminary total of \$1,155.0 million in November. The residential and non-residential construction sectors contributed equally to the decrease in activity. In November 1982, the value of building projects authorized was estimated at \$1,124.2 million.

Residential permits were issued in November for building construction work estimated at \$633.0 million, down 13.6% from \$732.3 million in October, and 10.3% lower than the November 1982 level of \$705.4 million. While the number of single-detached homes authorized remained high at a seasonally adjusted 6,885 units in November (7,392 in October), multiple dwellings authorized dropped to 3,975 from 5,495 units. Residential permits decreased in value in November in all the provinces except Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, where only moderate increases were recorded.

Building permits in the non-residential sector registered an overall 12.5% drop to \$521.9 million in November from \$597.8 million in October. The value of new industrial projects authorized rose 17.8% to a seasonally adjusted \$87.8 million from \$74.5 million in October, but commercial projects decreased 19.2% to \$257.0 million from \$318.0 million in October and publicly-initiated projects decreased 13.3% to \$177.1 million from \$204.2 million. Most of the overall decrease in non-residential permits in November was attributable to a 46.7% decline in activity in Alberta.

For further information, order the November 1983 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$3.85/\$38.50), or contact J.P. Delisle (613-995-8213), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9.

### Labour Force Survey

Canada's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose marginally to 11.2% in January 1984 from 11.1% in December 1983. The participation rate decreased to 64.2% from 64.5% in the preceding month and the employment/population ratio moved down to 57.0% from 57.3%.

Employment was at a seasonally adjusted level of 10,855,000 persons in January, down 47,000 from December. Employment declined by 27,000 for males aged 25 years and over, by 9,000 for females in this age group and by 11,000 for females aged 15 to 24. On a provincial basis, employment dropped by an estimated 31,000 in Ontario while showing little or no change in the other provinces.

Unemployment in January was estimated at a seasonally adjusted level of 1,374,000, up slightly (+9,000) over December. Unemployment increased by 17,000 for persons aged 25 and over; for males there was an increase of 12,000 and for females a 5,000 increase. However, unemployment declined by 11,000 for males 15 to 24. Provincially, unemployment rose by an estimated 11,000 in Ontario and declined by 8,000 in Alberta.

Unemployment rates (seasonally adjusted) for the provinces in January were as follows, with December rates in brackets: Newfoundland, 19.2% (19.0%); Prince Edward Island, 11.7% (11.5%); Nova Scotia, 12.8% (12.9%); New Brunswick, 14.4% (15.0%); Quebec, 13.4% (13.4%); Ontario, 9.2% (8.9%); Manitoba, 8.4% (8.6%); Saskatchewan, 7.4% (7.6%); Alberta, 10.6% (11.1%); and British Columbia, 13.6% (13.7%).

The unadjusted estimate of employment was 10,443,000 in January 1984, an increase of 310,000 (+3.1%) over the level of January 1983. Unemployment decreased by 138,000 (-8.6%) to 1,473,000 from 1,611,000 over the 12 months. The unadjusted unemployment rate was 12.4% in January 1984, down from 13.7% a year earlier. The participation rate increased slightly to 62.6% from 62.5% in January 1983 and the employment/population ratio rose to 54.8% from 53.9%.

### Railway Carloadings

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada in December 1983 totalled 16.6 million tonnes, an increase of 19.4% from a year earlier. The carriers received an additional 1.0 million tonnes from the United States, up 18.0% from December 1982.

Commodities registering notable changes in volumes loaded during the latest month were: wheat (-13.4%); coal (+22.7%); iron ore and concentrates (+30.8%) and potash (+34.4%).

Total rail freight loadings in Canada during the year 1983 showed an increase of 3.6% from the 1982 level, while receipts from U.S. connections rose by 7.2%.

For further information, order the December 1983 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, \$1.60/\$16).

### Employment Income, 1980

Men consistently earned more than women in 1980 at all ages and for all levels of education.

Generally, the average employment income for women was slightly more than one-half that of men. However, the ratio varied according to level of education. Women with a trade certificate or diploma earned, on average, 48% of the employment income earned by men with a similar level of education. For those who had some university with a certificate below the bachelor level or with other non-university certificate or diploma, the average employment income for women was 59% of that for men. Women university graduates with qualifications above the bachelor level earned about 58% of the amount of their male counterparts.

In general, the highest average employment incomes are found for men and women with a university education above a bachelor and first professional level. However, when the data are examined by age, it is evident that while this was true for all women except those between 15 and 24 years of age, it was only true for men between 25 and 34. For men 35 years of age and over, those with only a bachelor or first professional degree earned a higher average employment income than those with an education beyond that level. For almost all educational levels, employment income peaked at age 45 to 54 for both men and women.

For further information, order the publication *Population: Worked in 1980 — Employment Income by Selected Characteristics, 1981 Census of Canada (92-931; Canada: \$8.50; other countries: \$10.20)*, or contact Patricia Grainger (613-995-9381), Economic Characteristics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Department Stores

Department stores in Canada had sales totalling \$1,731.1 million in December 1983, an increase of 7.6% from a year earlier. Cumulative sales for January-December 1983 reached \$10,929.5 million, up 7.1% from the 1982 level.

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

- Ontario, \$652.1 million (+9.0%);
- Quebec, \$305.0 million (+8.7%);
- British Columbia, \$278.5 million (+5.0%);
- Alberta, \$225.8 million (+3.2%);
- Atlantic provinces, \$130.4 million (+10.8%);
- Manitoba, \$85.6 million (+5.8%);
- Saskatchewan, \$53.8 million (+14.3%).

Data users should note that the British Columbia figures include as well those for the Yukon and Northwest Territories. See the December 1983 issue of *Department Store Sales by Regions* (63-004, \$1.60/\$16).



## Travel

Total non-resident visitors to Canada in December 1983 numbered 1.7 million, down 6.9% from a year earlier. Residents of Canada re-entering this country from international trips increased by 10.7% to 2.6 million. For the year 1983, non-resident entries dropped by 0.4% from 1982 to 34.3 million while the number of returning Canadians was up by 17.0% to 40.7 million.

Preliminary statistics for December show that 1.6 million United States residents entered Canada, down 7.8% from the previous year. Visitors from countries other than the U.S. increased by 10.6% to 93,000. Canadian residents returning from the U.S. numbered 2.5 million, up 9.5% from December 1982, while residents returning from other countries increased by 46.6% to 114,000.

During 1983, international travel flows were as follows: 32.5 million U.S. residents entered Canada, almost unchanged (+0.1%) from the preceding year; visitors from other countries decreased by 10.1% to 1.8 million; Canadians returning from the U.S. increased by 17.0% to 39.0 million; and residents re-entering from other countries numbered 1.7 million, up 17.7% from 1982.

In 1983, long-term entries from the U.S. (including overnight or longer bus and auto traffic and all plane, train and boat entries) increased by 2.4% from 1982 to 11.2 million. Residents of countries other than the U.S. (excluding those arriving by land via the U.S. and entering and leaving on the same day) dropped by 8.1% to 1.6 million. Long-term Canadian re-entries from the U.S. numbered 12.0 million, up 14.8% from 1982, while Canadians residents returning from other countries increased by 17.7% to 1.7 million.

For further information, order the December 1983 issue of *International Travel — Advance Information* (66-002, \$1.60/\$16), or contact Paul L. Paradis (613-995-0847), International Travel Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z8.

## Security Transactions

Non-residents reduced their holdings of outstanding Canadian securities in November 1983, producing a net capital outflow of \$52 million. Non-residents sold \$72 million of Canadian equities during the month, while acquiring \$20 million of outstanding Canadian bonds. In trade in outstanding bonds, substantial investments from Japan were largely offset by net selling activity by most other non-residents.

Residents of Canada increased their holdings of outstanding foreign securities in November, giving rise to a net outflow of \$89 million, largely representing additional investment in foreign bonds.

For further information, order the November 1983 issue of *Security Transactions with Non-residents* (67-002, \$2.75/\$27.50), or contact John Motala (613-996-2545), Balance of Payments Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Farm Input Price Index

The Farm Input Price Index (1971=100) for Canada stood at 306.3 in the fourth quarter of 1983, up 0.4% from the revised third quarter level of 305.2. On a year-over-year basis, from the fourth quarter of 1982 to the fourth quarter of 1983, the index rose 2.0%.

The fourth quarter 1983 rise of 0.4% was attributable to increases in the component indexes for crop production (1.0%), animal production (1.1%), hired farm labour (0.8%) and interest (1.2%). Partially dampening the impact of these increases were declines for building and fencing (-1.9%), machinery and motor vehicles (-0.1%) and supplies and services (-0.2%).

Higher prices for seed (up 4.4% in the quarter) were mainly responsible for the advance in the crop production index. Increased feed prices (up 7.2%) more than offset price declines for weanling pigs (-26.3%) and feeder cattle (-2.5%), and accounted for a large part of the rise in the animal production index.

The major index decline in the fourth quarter occurred in the building and fencing group and was the result of price decreases for building materials, notably lumber and plywood.

In the latest quarter, the Farm Input Price Index for Eastern Canada increased 0.4% to a level 3.0% higher than a year earlier. The index for Western Canada rose 0.3% during the quarter, standing a moderate 1.0% higher than its level for the corresponding 1982 period.

For further information, order the fourth quarter issue of *Farm Input Price Indexes* (62-004, \$4.20/\$16.95), or contact the Information Unit (613-995-5738), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

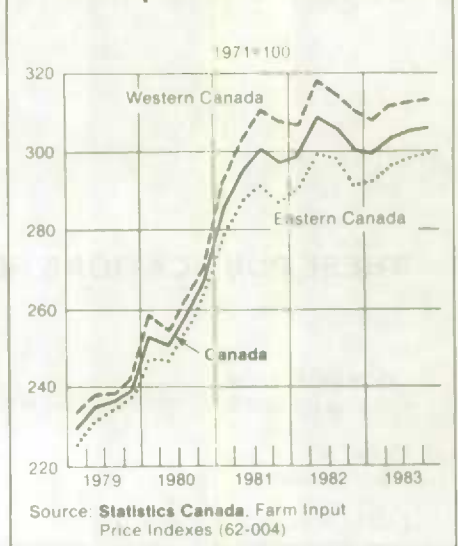
## New Housing Price Index

The New Housing Price Index (1976=100) declined 0.1% to a level of 131.7 in December 1983 from 131.8 in November. The index now stands 1.6% higher than its year-earlier level of 129.6. In December, the estimated House Only index showed no movement, remaining at 131.0, while the estimated Land Only index decreased 0.2% to 133.5.

Between November and December, decreases in new housing prices were recorded for Victoria (-2.1%), Calgary (-1.7%) and St. John's (-0.2%). Price increases were registered for Montreal (0.3%), Hamilton (0.2%), Ottawa-Hull (0.1%) and Toronto (0.1%).

Between December 1982 and December 1983, the largest year-over-year increase in the price of new housing was observed for Ottawa-Hull (13.2%), followed by Montreal (9.0%), Quebec City (7.5%), St. Catharines-Niagara (5.9%) and Winnipeg (5.3%). Lower year-over-year increases, ranging between 0.3% and 4.7%, were recorded for Toronto, London, Hamilton, St. John's, Vancouver, Regina, Kitchener, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

## Farm Input Price Indexes



## Business Conditions Survey

Canadian manufacturers expect production during the first quarter of 1984 to be maintained at about the same level as in the fourth quarter of 1983. Results of the January Business Conditions Survey show that respondents representing 48% of manufacturing shipments expect production to remain about the same while 29% of the weighted response expect it to be higher and 24% lower.

When results are classified by the type of market served, manufacturers in the export-based and "other intermediate goods" industries are more optimistic about first quarter 1984 production whereas manufacturers in the other four categories — durable consumer goods, non-durable consumer goods, machinery and equipment, and construction materials and supplies — forecast lower production.

Manufacturers in Ontario and Saskatchewan, on balance, expect higher production levels in the first quarter of 1984 than in the last quarter of 1983. Little change in production levels is anticipated in British Columbia but a decline is forecast in the other five provinces for which results are published — Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta.

New orders levels continued to improve: at the Canada level, new orders were reported to be rising by 33% and declining by only 15% in January. Furthermore, higher new orders levels were noted in four of the six economic-use groups. However, provincial results indicate that the rise in the new orders level was concentrated in Ontario and Quebec.

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.

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Road Motor Vehicles, Registrations, 1982	53-219	\$5	\$6
<b>Service Bulletin</b>			
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