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Weekly Bulletin

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Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada (1981=100) stood at 120.2 in January 1984, up 0.5% from the December 1983 level of 119.6. The increase was largely attributable to higher food prices (up 1.9%) and transportation costs (up 1.2%) and, to a lesser extent, to increased housing charges (up 0.3%). Partially dampening the impact of those increases were price declines for clothing (down 1.9%) and recreation, reading and education (down 0.9%).

The year-over-year increase in the CPI, as measured by comparing the index level of January 1984 to that of January 1983, was 5.3%, compared to the advance of 4.5% registered between December 1982 and December 1983. The acceleration was principally attributable to the sharp rise in food prices and to the downward impact that the January 1983 reduction in the Petroleum Compensation Charge and price wars had on gasoline prices in that month, factors which were not repeated in January 1984.

(continued on page 2)

International Travel Account

Preliminary estimates for 1983 show that Canada posted an international travel account deficit of \$2,087 million, up from \$1,284 million in 1982. This country earned \$3,853 million from international travel in 1983, up 3.5% from 1982. During the same period, Canadians travelling abroad increased their payments by 18.6% to \$5,940 million.

In the fourth quarter of 1983, Canada registered a deficit of \$529 million, up 54.7% from the October-December 1982 deficit of \$342 million. Receipts from the United States totalled \$391 million, up 2.4% from the preceding year, while receipts from all other countries increased 2.6% to \$197 million. Payments by Canadians to the United States amounted to \$717 million, 24.0% above the 1982 level, while payments to all other countries increased by 18.3% to \$400 million.

For further information, order the October-December 1983 issue of *Travel Between Canada and Other Countries* (66-001, \$8.35/\$33.40), or contact Paul L. Paradis (613-995-0847), International Travel Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Nov.	394.20p	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	1,321,000	-8.6

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Dec.*	3,222.5	3,854.9	9.6
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Dec.*	30,693.6p	30,522.7r	-0.6

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Dec.*	16,721.2p	18,373.9r	20.7
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Dec.*	20,260.8p	20,345.5r	30.0

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Jan.*	120.2	119.6	5.3
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)	Nov.*	8,791.7	84,827.3	-4.5
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Dec.*	7.5p	86.3p	-4.4

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)	Jan.	16.8p	16.8p	18.8
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Jan.	1,228.6p	1,228.6p	66.5

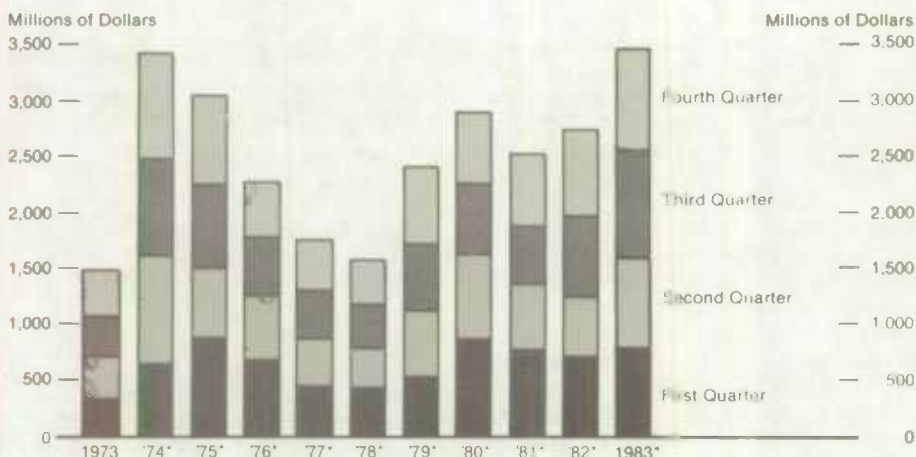
SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Dec.	1,731.1	10,929.5	7.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Dec.*	16,805.9p	200,067.5p	8.8
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Dec.	898.3	12,196.3	24.1
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Dec.	11,660.5	105,188.9p	7.7

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

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

Canadian Exports of Crude Petroleum



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

*Includes the export tax

Canada

...Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The increase of 1.9% in the food index — the largest since June 1982 — mainly reflected higher fresh vegetable prices which, on average, were up 18.7% over December. The higher prices were largely the result of lower supplies of salad-type vegetables attributable to cold weather conditions in the southeastern growing areas of the United States and reduced domestic stocks of storable vegetables. The food-purchased-from-stores index rose 2.3% in January, up 6.1% from a year earlier. The food-purchased-from-restaurants index advanced by 0.8% and was 3.9% above January 1983. As a result, the aggregate food index rose 5.6% from the year-earlier level.

The marginal increase of 0.1% in the all-items-excluding-food index reflected the largely offsetting impacts of higher prices for certain energy-related items and lower prices resulting from seasonal promotions on certain goods and services — most clothing items, reflecting the effect of post-Christmas sales, and lower fares for package holiday trips. Between January 1983 and January 1984, the all-items-excluding-food index advanced 5.2%.

Viewed in terms of goods and services, the price level for goods advanced 0.8% while that for services increased 0.1%. As a result, between January 1983 and January 1984, the price level for goods advanced 6.1% while that for services increased 4.3%.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the all-items index increased 0.8% in January; this comprised an increase of 1.9% in the food index and an increase of 0.5% in the all-items-excluding-food index. During the three month period to January 1984, the all-items index rose at a seasonally adjusted compounded annual rate of 5.7%, up from the increase of 4.9% registered in the three months ending December 1983.

For further information, order the January 1984 issue of *The Consumer Price Index* (62-001, \$2.75/\$27.50), or contact Sandra Shadlock or Suzanne Gratton (613-995-4078), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

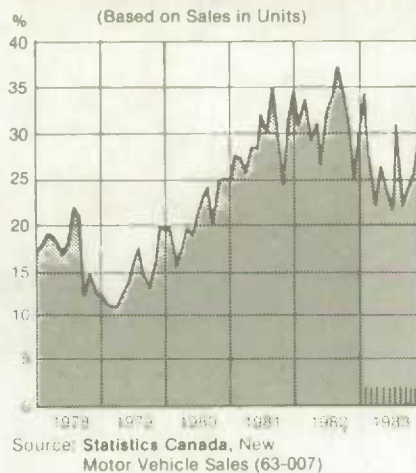
Provincial Governments

Gross general revenues of Canada's provincial and territorial governments totalled \$72.6 billion for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1982, up 15.4% over the previous fiscal year. This growth represents an acceleration from the increases recorded in 1980-81 (11.8%), 1979-80 (13.6%) and 1978-79 (13.5%).

Gross general expenditures for 1981-82 at \$73.5 billion showed a rise of 17.6% over the previous year, more than the 1980-81 increase of 13.0% and the 1979-80 increase of 13.8% and significantly higher than the increases reported in 1978-79 (11.4%) and 1977-78 (11.8%).

For further information, order *Provincial and Territorial Government Finance, Revenue and Expenditure, 1981* (catalogue 68-207), or contact G. Huneault (613-995-9897).

Share of Canadian New Car Market Held by Overseas Manufacturers



Security Transactions

Transactions with non-residents in outstanding Canadian securities gave rise to a small net outflow of \$6 million in December 1983, down from a \$52 million net outflow in the previous month. Non-residents reduced further their holdings of outstanding Canadian equities in the current month, producing a net outflow of \$94 million, following a net outflow of \$72 million in November. In trade in outstanding bonds, a net inflow of \$88 million was recorded.

Residents of Canada increased their holdings of outstanding foreign securities in December, producing a net outflow of \$88 million, an amount similar to that of the previous month. The bulk of the investment in the current month was in foreign equities, a shift from the previous month when the investment was largely in foreign bonds.

For further information, order the December 1983 issue of *Security Transactions with Non-residents* (67-002, \$2.75/\$27.50).

Petroleum/Natural Gas

Preliminary figures show that in December 1983, sales of petroleum products by Canadian refiners and major distributors amounted to 7 228 600 cubic metres, up 0.9% from the level recorded a year earlier. Production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners amounted to 7 468 100 cubic metres, down 1.0% from December 1982.

For the year 1983, sales of refined petroleum products amounted to 78 312 767 cubic metres, down 7.1% from the January-December 1982 period. Production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners during 1983 amounted to 86 330 439 cubic metres, down 4.4% from the 1982 level.

Natural Gas

During December 1983, sales of natural gas by main distributors amounted to 5 714 781 thousand cubic metres, up 25.5% from December 1982. Residential sales rose 23.8% from a year earlier, commercial sales were up 23.1% and industrial sales 28.3%.

For January-December 1983, sales of natural gas amounted to 43 833 263 thousand cubic metres, down 0.1% from the level recorded during 1982. Declines were registered in commercial (-4.6%) and residential (-7.4%) sales, while industrial sales rose 6.1%.

For further information, order the December 1983 issues of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, \$3.70/\$37) and *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$2.75/\$27.50), or contact Richard Godin (613-996-3139), Energy Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in December 1983 increased by 12.5% over the same period in 1982. All trade groups except farm machinery, equipment and supplies (-2.1%) recorded sales increases with the most notable gains reported by wholesalers of electrical machinery, equipment and supplies (+26.2%), motor vehicles and accessories (+22.6%), general merchandise (+20.0%), and metal and metal products (+16.7%). Sales increases were posted in all provinces except Alberta (-2.4%).

Sales by wholesale merchants during 1983 increased by 11.7% from the 1982 total. The most notable sales increase was reported by wholesalers of electrical machinery, equipment and supplies (+42.0%). All provinces except Alberta (-2.3%) posted sales increases, ranging from +6.3% in Prince Edward Island to +25.7% in New Brunswick.

Inventories

Wholesale inventories in December 1983 were at the same level as in the corresponding period in 1982. The ratio of inventories to sales at the end of December 1983 was 1.88:1, down from 2.11:1 a year earlier.

For further information, order the December 1983 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$1.60/\$16), or contact B. Marois (613-996-9307).

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Inventories/Shipments/Orders

Preliminary estimates show the seasonally adjusted value of new orders received in all Canadian manufacturing industries in December 1983 decreased 0.4% to \$17,838.6 million from the revised November estimate of \$17,903.2 million. In durable goods industries, new orders with an estimated value of \$7,801.4 million were 1.1% lower than the November level of \$7,885.3 million; a \$400.3 million decline in transportation equipment industries was only partly offset by increases of \$162.8 million in primary metal industries and \$114.2 million in machinery industries. New orders received in non-durable goods industries were valued at \$10,037.2 million, up 0.2% from \$10,017.9 million (revised) in November.

The seasonally adjusted unfilled orders backlog of manufacturers at the end of December was \$20,750.5 million, down 0.1% from the revised November estimate of \$20,780.6 million.

The seasonally adjusted value of manufacturers' shipments in December was \$17,868.7 million, up 0.4% from November's value of \$17,789.7 million. Shipments of durable goods industries were up 0.8% to \$7,826.3 million from \$7,760.7 million, while shipments of non-durable goods industries increased 0.1% to \$10,042.4 million from \$10,029.0 million a month earlier.

Inventory owned by manufacturers at the end of December was \$31,091.4 million, seasonally adjusted, down 0.1% from the previous month's revised value of \$31,125.1 million.

The seasonally adjusted ratio of total inventory owned to shipments at the end of December was 1.74:1, down from 1.75:1 in November. The ratio of finished products inventory to shipments remained unchanged from the preceding month at 0.64:1.

Not adjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in December 1983 were estimated at \$16,805.9 million. Cumulative shipments for the year 1983 at an estimated \$200,067.5 million were up 8.8% from the 1982 total of \$183,802.9 million.

For further information, order the December 1983 issue of Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries (31-001, \$3.85/\$38.50), or contact J. Lepage (613-996-7008), Shipments, Inventories and Orders Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Telephone Statistics

Canada's 13 major telephone systems reported revenues of \$802.9 million in December 1983, up 20.1% from a year earlier. Operating expenses rose 12.6% over the 12-month period to \$554.9 million. Net operating revenue at \$248.0 million showed an increase of 41.3% over December 1982.

For further information, order the December 1983 issue of Telephone Statistics (56-002, \$1.60/\$16), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada.

Market Research Handbook

The 1983 revised edition of the *Market Research Handbook* — the latest issue of one of the Bureau's perennial best-sellers — provides the most comprehensive array of Canadian marketing information available in a single volume. The 803-page publication, which contains some 278 tables and 45 charts, can be used for analysis of markets of all sizes, ranging from local or regional to national in scope.

The *Handbook* brings together a wide selection of the data most needed by market specialists for sound decision-making. In order that trends can be identified, the publication includes data for previous years tabulated with the most recent statistics. Where possible, projections of population, family and household growth and international comparisons are included. For local market analysts, many of the key data series are available for Canada's 24 census metropolitan areas and 35 census agglomerations, which represent more than 60% of the country's population.

For anyone interested in assessing the dynamics of the marketplace, such as population growth, demographic trends, income distribution and changes in consumption patterns, the *Market Research Handbook, 1983 Revised Edition* should prove invaluable. Copies of the publication (catalogue 63-224; Canada: \$31.80; other countries: \$38.15) are available from Publication Sales and Services, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6, or any of the Bureau's regional reference centres.

Department Store Sales

Department store sales were \$1,731.1 million in December 1983, up 7.6% over December 1982. Sales were higher in 30 of the 40 departments with the largest increases in furs (+35.9%), men's clothing (+18.0%), gasoline, oil, auto accessories, repairs and supplies (+18.0%) and major appliances (+16.8%).

All provinces showed department store sales increases in December 1983 from the same month a year earlier, with advances ranging from 15.3% in Prince Edward Island to 3.2% in Alberta; however, sales decreased by 2.6% in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. All 10 metropolitan areas surveyed reported sales increases, ranging from 13.2% in Ottawa-Hull to 1.2% in Calgary.

Sales for all department stores for the year 1983 reached \$10,929.5 million, 7.1% higher than the \$10,208.1 million recorded in 1982.

For further information, order the December 1983 issue of Department Store Sales and Stocks (63-002, \$3.30/\$33), or contact Jean-Pierre Simard (613-996-9304).

Farm Cash Receipts

Farm cash receipts for 1983 totalled an estimated \$18,901.7 million, down 0.7% from the 1982 level of \$19,043.1 million.

Receipts from the sale of field crops rose 4.1% to an estimated \$9,098.2 million in 1983 from the preceding year's estimate of \$8,743.2 million. Wheat, barley, flaxseed, rapeseed, potatoes and corn were up, while receipts for oats and Canadian Wheat Board payments were down.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products were estimated at \$9,288.0 million in 1983, down 3.6% from the 1982 level of \$9,637.9 million.

Other cash receipts were down 22.1% to \$515.5 million in 1983 from \$662.0 million in 1982.

For further information, order the January-December 1983 issue of Farm Cash Receipts (21-001, \$1.60/\$16), or contact John Lanthier (613-995-4895), Agriculture Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Leading Indicator of Construction Activity

The filtered index of construction (1971=100) — a leading indicator of building activity in Canada — fell again in October 1983 to 83.3, a decrease of 3.3% from the September level.

The indicator of residential construction dropped 5.0% from September to a level of 88.0 in October. The decline of the residential indicator reflected the weakness of building intentions in the rental housing sector and a levelling off in the single-detached homes category.

The leading indicator of non-residential construction stood at 76.6 in October, a level slightly lower (-0.6%) than in September. This decline is entirely attributable to a 6.1% drop in the index of government intentions to 60.5 in October. However, the two categories associated with the business sector — industrial and commercial — continued their slow upward progress to levels of 65.8 and 96.4, respectively, in October.

For further information, contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-995-8213), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 9Z9.

Retail Chain/Department Stores, 1982

Retail chain organizations in Canada had sales totalling \$32.7 billion in 1982, up 10.3% over the 1981 figure of \$29.6 billion. Department store organizations recorded a slight 0.1% decrease in annual sales to \$10.3 billion in 1982.

The report *Retail Chain and Department Stores, 1982* (catalogue 63-210) provides detailed information covering both the chain and the department store sectors; a listing of selected localities; floor area data covering selected kinds of businesses and tables on department store organizations classified by "major" and "junior" department stores.



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THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FEBRUARY 17 — 23

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada Price per issue/year	Elsewhere Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE STATISTICS			
Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, December 1983	62-003	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
The Dairy Review, December 1983	23-001	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS			
Security Transactions with Non-residents, November 1983	67-002	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
BUSINESS FINANCE			
Cheques Cashed, December 1983	61-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Corporation Financial Statistics, 1981	61-207	\$11.10	\$13.30
CENSUS			
Population: Employment Income Distributions, 1981 Census of Canada	92-929	\$7.50	\$9
Population: Labour Force Activity, 1981 Census of Canada	92-915	\$9.50	\$11.40
Population: Labour Force — Occupation by Cultural Characteristics, 1981 Census of Canada	92-918	\$8.50	\$10.20
CONSTRUCTION			
Building Permits, November 1983	64-001	\$3.85/\$38.50	\$4.60/\$46
The Special Trades Contracting Industry, 1982	64-210p	(N/C)	(N/C)
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM			
Service Bulletin			
Education Statistics, Vol. 6, No. 1, Continuing Growth in French Immersion Programmes, 1982-83	81-002	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
FINANCIAL FLOWS AND MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES			
International Travel — Advance Information, December 1983	54-002	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
INDUSTRY PRODUCT			
Gross Domestic Product by Industry, November 1983	61-005	\$3.85/\$38.50	\$4.60/\$46
LABOUR			
Preliminary Unemployment Insurance Statistics, November 1983	73-001p	(N/C)	(N/C)
LABOUR FORCE SURVEY			
The Labour Force, January 1984	71-001	\$3.85/\$38.50	\$4.60/\$46
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES			
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables — Monthly, December 1983	32-011	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Coal and Coke Statistics, November 1983	45-002	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Confectionery Manufacturers 1982	32-213	\$5	\$6
Construction Type Plywood, December 1983	35-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Glass and Glass Products Manufacturers, 1982	44-207	\$5	\$6
Heating Equipment Manufacturers, 1982	41-225	\$5	\$6
Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins, December 1983	46-002	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, January 1984	32-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard, December 1983	36-003	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Quarterly Report on Energy Supply-demand in Canada, 1983-II	57-003	\$6.65/\$26.60	\$7.95/\$31.90
PRICES			
Industry Price Indexes, December 1983	62-011	\$3.85/\$38.50	\$4.60/\$46
The Consumer Price Index, January 1984	62-001	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS			
Telephone Statistics, December 1983	56-002	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19

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