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Weekly Bulletin

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Statement of External Trade

On a seasonally adjusted balance-of-payments basis, preliminary results indicate that Canada's total exports increased 3.4% or \$290 million to a record \$8.9 billion in January 1984, following increases of \$15 million in December 1983 and \$805 million in November 1983. Imports declined 2.2% or \$155 million to \$6.8 billion, after increases of \$185 million in December 1983 and \$110 million in November 1983. As a result, the merchandise trade surplus climbed \$445 million to a record level of \$2.1 billion in January 1984, following a decline of \$170 million in December 1983 and an increase of \$695 million in November 1983.

Growth in the short term trend for exports, which slowed from an increase of 2.3% in March 1983 to 1.0% in July 1983, accelerated again with increases moving up from 1.4% in August 1983 to 3.0% in November 1983. The imports short trend also slowed early in 1983 from an increase of 2.3% in February to 1.6% in April, and recovered sooner and more strongly than exports with gains up from a 1.7% increase in May to one of 3.4% in August and then slowed with increases of 3.0% in September, 2.4% in October and 1.7% in November. As a result, the trend for the merchandise trade surplus peaked in April and May at \$1.655 billion, declined \$310 million up to September, and then turned up again with increases of \$70 million in October and \$130 million in November 1983.

The largest increases in value for domestic exports (customs basis) in January 1984 were for passenger cars (up 18% or \$190 million).

(continued on next page)

Labour Income

Labour income for December 1983 was estimated at \$18,631.4 million, an increase of \$1,234.9 million or 7.1% from December 1982.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries increased by \$222.8 million between November and December 1983 to \$17,154.5 million.

The estimates will be published in the October-December 1983 issue of Estimates of Labour Income (72-005, \$5.55/\$22.20). For further information, contact G. Gauthier (613-995-7165), Labour Income Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Dec.	395.10p	394.71r	
Labour Income (\$ million)	Dec.*	18,631.4p	18,829.3p	7.1
Persons with Jobs (million)	Feb.*	10.56	10.44	3.4
Unemployed	Feb.*	1,476,000	1,473,000	-8.0

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)	Jan.	214.0p	212.3p	3.5
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Jan.	157.1p	154.4p	7.6
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Jan.	304.5p	302.6p	4.0

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec.	1,038.9p	14,571.8p	13.9
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Jan.	8,635	8,635	1.4

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)	Jan.*	8,326p	8,326p	28.9
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Jan.*	6,586p	6,586p	28.8

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

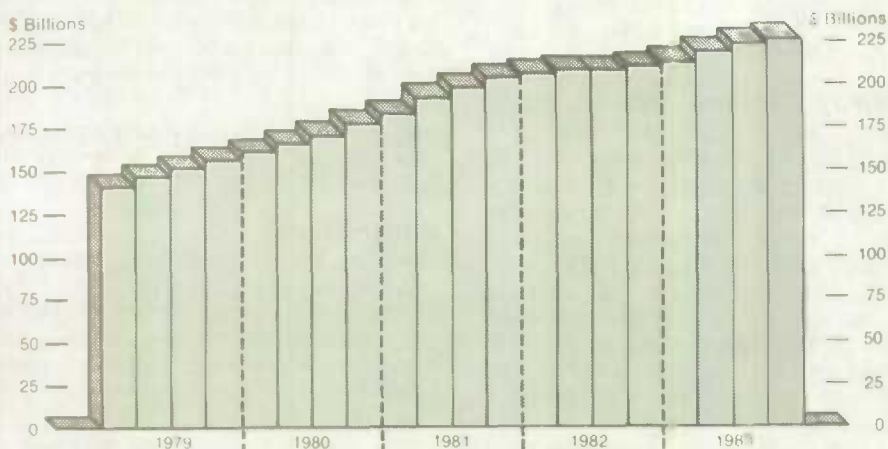
SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Jan.*	649.4	649.4	4.2
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)	Jan.*	7,617.0	7,617.0p	10.6

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.
p - preliminary, r - revised, * - new this week.

Wages, Salaries and Supplementary Labour Income

Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



Source: Statistics Canada, National Income and Expenditure Accounts (13-001)

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Statement of Trade . . .

million to \$1,270 million, following increases of \$210 million in December, \$55 million in November and \$80 million in October), motor vehicle parts (up 11% or \$95 million to \$970 million, after increases of \$60 million in December and \$130 million in November) and natural gas (up 31% or \$90 million to \$385 million). Other large increases were for wheat (up 19% or \$65 million to \$400 million) and aircraft (up 45% or \$50 million to \$165 million).

The largest exports decrease in January was for industrial machinery (down 23% or \$60 million to \$195 million).

In January 1984, the largest imports decreases (customs basis) were for precious metals (down 47% or \$50 million to \$55 million) and crude petroleum (down 19% or \$45 million to \$200 million, following declines of \$50 million in December and \$245 million in November).

The largest imports increase in January was for aircraft (up 49% or \$65 million to \$190 million). This increase was mainly attributable to imports of CF-18s.

For further information, order the January 1984 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, \$3.30/\$33), or contact G. Blaney (613-995-6305), Trade Information Unit, or François Bordé (613-995-6115).

Railway Carloadings

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada in January 1984 totalled 17.6 million tonnes, an increase of 24.2% from a year earlier. The carriers received an additional 1.0 million tonnes from the United States, up 3.3% from January 1983.

Commodities registering notable changes in volumes loaded for the latest month were: wheat (-41.4%); coal (+40.0%); iron ore and concentrates (+45.7%) and copper-nickel ores and concentrates (+2,168.9%).

For further information, order the January 1984 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, \$1.60/\$16).

Labour Force Survey

Canada's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up to 11.3% in February 1984 from 11.2% in January. The participation rate increased to 64.5% from 64.2% in the preceding month and the employment/population ratio to 57.2% from 57.0%.

Employment for the week ending February 18, 1984 was at a seasonally adjusted level of 10,909,000 persons, an increase of 54,000 over the level of January. Employment gains were recorded for all four major age/sex groups: employment increased by 8,000 for males aged 15 to 24 years, by 16,000 for females in this age category, by 15,000 for males 25 years and over and by 15,000 for females in this age group. Full-time employment rose by 41,000 and part-time employment increased 15,000. Provincially, employment rose in Alberta (+10,000), Ontario (+30,000) and Quebec (+16,000), while declining by 14,000 in British Columbia. By industry, employment rose in the construction industry (+29,000) and in public administration (+16,000).

Unemployment rose 21,000 in February to a seasonally adjusted 1,395,000; unemployment increased by 12,000 for males aged 25 years of age and over, and by 10,000 for females of the same age group. On a provincial basis, unemployment was up 11,000 in British Columbia and showed little change in the other provinces.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the provinces in February were as follows, with January rates in brackets: Newfoundland, 19.8% (19.2%); Prince Edward Island, 12.5% (11.7%); Nova Scotia, 13.2% (12.8%); New Brunswick, 14.3% (14.4%); Quebec, 13.5% (13.4%); Ontario, 9.1% (9.2%); Manitoba, 8.5% (8.4%); Saskatchewan, 7.6% (7.4%); Alberta, 10.3% (10.6%) and British Columbia, 14.5% (13.6%).

Unadjusted, the level of employment for Canada in February 1984 was 10,557,000, an increase of 345,000 (+3.4%) from a year earlier. Unemployment declined by 128,000 (-8.0%) over the 12-month period to 1,476,000 from 1,604,000. The unemployment rate was 12.3% in the latest month, down from 13.6% in February 1983, while the participation rate was up to 63.1% from 62.8% and the employment/population ratio to 55.4% from 54.2% in the preceding year.

For further information, order the February 1984 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, \$3.70/\$37).

Farm Prices

The Canada index number of farm prices of agricultural products (1971=100) for January 1984 was 295.7, up 1.4% higher than the December 1983 level of 291.5 but 4.4% lower than the January 1983 number of 282.6.

The index is available on CANSIM (matrix 176) or in the publication *Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products* (62-003, \$1.60/\$16).

Employment Income

Data from the 1981 Census show the highest average 1980 employment incomes for full-time full-year workers were found among such professional groups as judges, physicians and surgeons, and dentists. Male physicians and surgeons earned the highest average employment income of \$59,834, followed by dentists, who earned \$58,128. For females, the ranking was reversed with dentists earning \$40,510, and physicians and surgeons \$36,115.

Data for paid workers who worked full-time, full-year in 1980 show the same kind of trends as for employment income. Only in occupation major group 25 — religion, was there an almost equivalent average wage and salary for females (\$12,193) as for males (\$12,707). For males, this was the lowest average wage and salary found for any major group, but for females, the lowest average was in farming, horticulture and animal husbandry occupations (\$8,886).

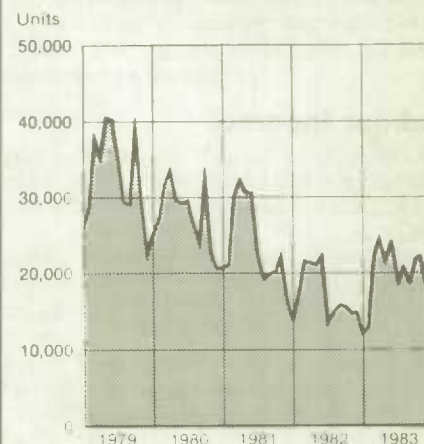
Copies of the publication *Population: Worked in 1980 — Employment Income by Occupation, 1981 Census of Canada* can be obtained from *Publication Sales and Services*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6, or any of the Bureau's regional reference centres. For more information, contact Patricia Grainger (613-995-9381), Economic Characteristics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Small Business Statistics

About 96% of businesses operating in Canada reported sales under \$2 million in 1980. These smaller firms accounted for 21.3% of total Canadian sales and 21.4% of profits. They were heavily concentrated in retail trade and in services, 24.4% being in the former group and 22.5% in the latter.

Requests for additional 1980 data should be addressed to *Small Business Statistics* (613-996-0096), Statistics Canada, 8th Floor, Jean Talon Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

Sales of New Commercial Vehicles



Source: Statistics Canada, New Motor Vehicle Sales (63-007)

Farm Cash Receipts

Preliminary estimates show farm cash receipts for January 1984 totalled \$2,449.1 million, down 9.9% from the year-earlier estimate of \$2,718.2 million.

Receipts from the sale of field crops dropped 12.5% to an estimated \$1,703.0 million in the latest month from the January 1983 level of \$1,946.0 million. Flaxseed, rapeseed, potatoes, corn and soybeans were up, while receipts for wheat and barley and Canadian Wheat Board payments were down.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products were estimated at \$699.9 million in January 1984, down 5.9% from the 1983 total of \$743.8 million.

Other cash receipts rose 63% to \$46.2 million from the preceding year's total of \$28.4 million.

Realized net farm income — which takes into account producers' operating expenses and depreciation charges — is published annually in catalogue 21-020.

For further information, order the January 1984 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.

Help-wanted Index

The Canada Help-wanted Index (1981=100), an indicator of the demand for labour, edged up slightly to 54 in February 1984 from 52 in January on a seasonally adjusted basis. The Index was more than 50% above the February 1983 level of 34, a low for that year.

Regionally, the seasonally adjusted help-wanted indexes increased from January to February in Ontario and the Prairie provinces, were little changed in Quebec and British Columbia and declined in the Atlantic provinces.

Inquiries about the Index should be directed to Horst Stiebert (613-995-7165 extension 238), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Department Store Sales

Department stores in Canada had sales totalling \$649.4 million in January 1984, an increase of 4.2% from a year earlier.

Department store sales by regions for the latest month were as follows, with percentage changes from January 1983 in brackets:

- Ontario, \$231.2 million (+4.9%)
- Quebec, \$120.5 million (+6.0%)
- British Columbia, \$112.4 million (+1.0%)
- Alberta, \$93.6 million (+1.3%)
- Atlantic provinces, \$38.2 million (+4.6%)
- Manitoba, \$32.5 million (+7.1%)
- Saskatchewan, \$21.1 million (+11.9%).

For further information, see the January 1984 issue of *Department Store Sales by Regions* (63-004, \$1.60/\$16).

New Motor Vehicle Sales

Retail sales of all new cars and trucks in January 1984 recorded their largest year-over-year gain in recent months, with an increase of 45.2% over January 1983 to 76,960 units. This followed almost as large year-over-year gains recorded in October (+44.1%) and November (+39.6%); in December, there was a relative slowing down in the increase, when it amounted to 11.0%.

Compared to January 1983, sales of North American manufactured passenger cars and commercial vehicles registered substantial increases in January 1984 (54.6% and 71.8%, respectively) and totalled 44,276 and 16,815 units. Sales of passenger cars built overseas increased by 6.4% to 13,077 units and sales of overseas commercial vehicles rose 22.2% to 2,792 units.

The share of the Canadian passenger car market held by North American manufacturers in January 1984 (based on units sales) was 77.2%, up from 70.0% in January 1983. Japanese manufacturers recorded a market share of 16.9% (compared to 24.7% in January 1983) while manufacturers from other countries held 5.9% of the automotive market (compared to 5.3% in January 1983).

Total dollar value of all new motor vehicles sold in January 1984 increased 59.2% from a year earlier to \$923.6 million. North American passenger cars sold were valued at \$497.7 million (up 68.7% over the same month the previous year) and commercial vehicles built in North America totalled \$246.5 million (up 78.2%). Sales of overseas passenger cars rose by 20.9% to \$152.0 million while those of commercial vehicles were 28.8% higher at \$27.3 million.

All provinces registered higher sales (in units) in January 1984 compared to the same month a year earlier, with advances ranging from 11.0% in Alberta to 68.8% in Quebec.

Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, preliminary estimates of unit sales of passenger cars built in North America increased 10.8% in January 1984 from the December 1983 level. Seasonally adjusted sales of passenger cars built overseas decreased 16.3% from the previous month, while total commercial vehicles (domestic and overseas manufactured vehicles) were 8.8% higher.

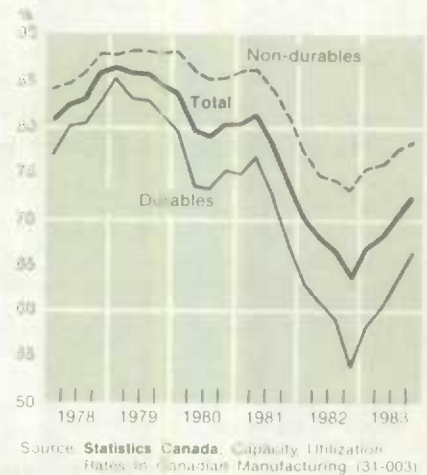
For further information, order the January 1984 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007, \$2.75/\$27.50), or contact Jean-Pierre Simard (613-996-9304).

Oil Pipeline Transport

Net receipts of crude oil, condensates, pentanes plus, liquefied petroleum gases and petroleum products through Canadian oil pipelines increased 2.6% in December 1983 to 12 354 371 cubic metres from 12 044 149 cubic metres a year earlier.

For further information, order the December 1983 issue of *Oil Pipeline Transport* (55-001, \$2.75/\$27.50).

Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing



Capacity Utilization Rates

Capacity utilization in Canadian manufacturing industries continued to rise in the fourth quarter of 1983, increasing 2.5% to a level of 72.4% from 70.6% in the third quarter. Although five of the 20 industry groupings posted lower capacity utilization rates, the declines were more than offset by the industries which recorded higher rates: the two most important gains were 13.3% in the transportation equipment industries and 11.6% in the machinery group.

However, while the capacity utilization rate for total manufacturing has been steadily increasing over the last four quarters, the rate is still well below the 81.5% level recorded in the second quarter of 1981, just before the recession began.

Utilization rates in durable manufacturing industries recorded a 4.6% increase in the fourth quarter of 1983, rising to 66.5% of capacity from 63.6% in the third quarter, while in the non-durable sector the increase was 0.9% to 78.5% from 77.8%.

(Given the many conceptual and measurement problems surrounding the notion of capacity utilization, the rates shown here are indicative of trends and cycles in the utilization of capital. The indicated level is only a statistical approximation and should be viewed as such. Data are available on CANSIM from the first quarter of 1961 to the current quarter by major manufacturing group according to the 1970 Standard Industrial Classification, with aggregates for durables, non-durables and total manufacturing.)

For further information, contact D. Wallace or R. Landry (613-995-8152), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Steel Ingots

Preliminary estimates show Canadian production of steel ingots climbed 43.7% in February 1984 to 1 209 912 tonnes from 842 154 tonnes a year earlier.

For further information, order the February 1984 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$2.75/\$27.50).



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THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED MARCH 9 — 15

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
CENSUS			
Economic Families in Private Households: Income and Selected Characteristics, 1981 Census of Canada	92-937	\$8.50	\$10.20
Population: Worked in 1980 — Employment Income by Occupation, 1981 Census of Canada	92-930	\$18	\$21.60
CONSTRUCTION			
Housing Starts and Completions, December 1983	64-002	\$3.30/\$33	\$3.95/\$39.50
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM			
Salaries and Qualifications of Teachers in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, 1982-83	81-202	\$6.65	\$7.95
EXTERNAL TRADE			
Exports by Countries, January-December 1983	65-003	\$11.10/\$44.40	\$13.30/\$53.25
Imports by Commodities, December 1983	65-007	\$5.55/\$22.20	\$6.65/\$26.60
FEDERAL AND MEDIA RELATIONS			
New Surveys, Volume 8, Number 1, First Quarter 1983 (Last Issue)	11-006	\$5.55/\$22.20	\$6.65/\$26.60
FINANCIAL FLOWS AND MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES			
Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, October-December 1983	66-001	\$8.35/\$33.40	\$10/\$40
HEALTH			
List of Canadian Hospitals and Special Care Facilities, 1983	83-201	\$11.10	\$13.30
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES			
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers, January 1984	36-004	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, November 1983	26-006	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers, January 1984	43-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers, January 1984	43-002	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Fruit and Vegetable Processing Industries, 1982	32-218	\$5	\$6
Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, December 1983	31-001	\$3.85/\$38.50	\$4.60/\$46
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, December 1983	35-003	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Shipbuilding and Boatbuilding, 1982	42-218	\$5	\$6
Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, February 1984	32-012	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, February 1, 1984	32-010	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Veneer and Plywood Mills, 1982	35-206	\$5	\$6
MERCHANDISE TRADE			
Merchandising Inventories, December 1983	63-014	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
New Motor Vehicle Sales, December 1983	63-007	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics, December 1983	63-011	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
PUBLIC FINANCE			
Federal Government Employment, July-September 1983	72-004	\$5.55/\$22.20	\$6.65/\$26.60

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