

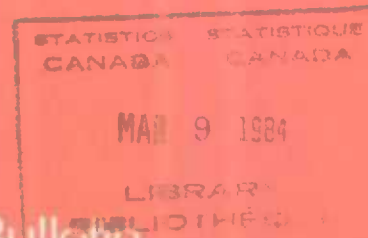


Statistics
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Weekly Bulletin



March 9, 1984

Private/Public Investment

Total capital expenditures in Canada during 1984 are estimated to be \$75,061 million in current dollars or 0.8% above \$74,425 million in 1983. This increase follows a decrease of 3.0% in 1983 from the \$76,761 million in 1982.

The total for capital outlays on construction is \$46,318 million in 1984, up 0.5% from \$46,104 million in 1983, which was, in turn, down 0.9% from the 1982 level of \$46,518 million. Residential construction, projected at \$13,164 million for 1984 is up 2.3% over the \$12,872 million in 1983; this follows the 26.8% gain last year over the \$10,149 million in 1982. The number of housing starts used in these estimates is 166,000 for 1984, 162,245 for 1983 and 125,860 for 1982. The rest of the construction program for non-residential buildings and for engineering structures is estimated to decline 0.2% to \$33,154 million in 1984 from the \$33,232 million in 1983 which showed a drop of 8.6% from the \$36,369 million in 1982. Totals for machinery and equipment are up 1.5% to \$28,743 million in 1984 from \$28,321 million in 1983 which was down 6.4% from the 1982 level of \$30,244 million.

The current outlook for 1984 shows capital spending by the business sector down by 0.4% to \$49,569 million from the \$49,757 million in 1983. Last year the decrease was 10.1% from the \$55,354 million in 1982. The social capital of institutions and governments on the other hand is up by 4.5% in 1984 for a total of \$12,328 million. The 1983 total of \$11,796 million was 4.8% higher than the \$11,258 million in 1982.

Capital spending strengths in the business sector during 1984 are expected to be mostly from the drilling of petroleum and gas wells where the total program of \$7,798 million represents an increase of \$706 million or 10% over the 1983 level. This gain is supplemented by some added strength in metal mining but reduced by a sizeable reduction for coal mining in the non-metal mines category. A similar pattern is shown in manufacturing where an increase for primary metals to a total program of \$1,143 million (+\$450 million, +64.9%) is offset by decreases for the chemical products group to a new total of \$1,044 million (-\$652 million, -38.4%), for petroleum and coal products to a total of \$520 million (-\$214 million, -29.2%) and for

(continued on next page)

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Dec.	395.10p	394.71r	
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)	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)	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

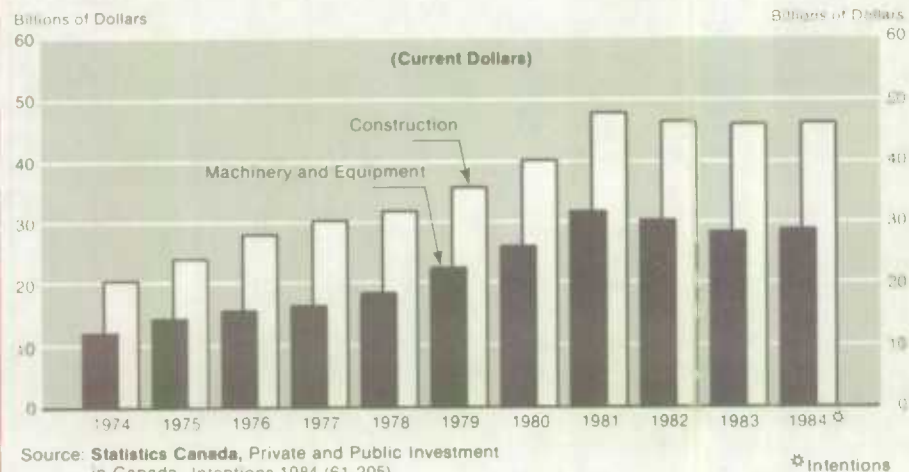
SALES

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.

Capital Expenditures, Canada, 1974-1983 and Intentions, 1984



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Weekly Bulletin

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transportation equipment which is shown at \$640 million (-\$154 million, -19.4%). The wood products group is showing some strength again to reach \$312 million (+\$91 million, +41.0%).

Total capital expenditures for the transportation-communication-miscellaneous utilities group, at \$15,259 million, is down by \$775 million or 4.8% from 1983. The total of \$7,317 million for electric power represents a decrease of \$990 million or 11.9% from 1983, while the water transport and services total of \$269 million is down by \$335 million or 55.4%.

For further information, contact Duncan Lusick or Justin Lacroix (613-995-9013), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (seasonally adjusted) in constant 1971 prices increased 0.3% in December 1983 with the index advancing to 146.0 from the upward revised level of 145.5 in November. The December gain was the 10th consecutive monthly increase for GDP. Industrial production increased by 1.0% in December.

The December growth in GDP originated mostly in manufacturing, and to a lesser extent from some gains in community, business and personal services, public administration, utilities and trade. Some weakness occurred in transportation and finance services.

Fourth quarter GDP increased by 0.9% to \$121.1 billion at annual rates from \$120.1 billion in the third quarter. The current quarter's growth rate of 0.9% follows three quarters of increases averaging 1.9%. Within the three months of the fourth quarter, there was a slowing in economic activity: total output was unchanged in October, increased by 0.4% in November and by 0.3% in December. By the end of 1983, GDP stood 7.2% above the level of a year earlier, when

the recession bottomed, and was 1.0% below the pre-recession peak set in June 1981.

The economy grew in each of the four quarters following six consecutive quarterly declines. This surge of growth in 1983 has pushed the economy's output up to a level of 2.7% above the average for 1982.

After recording a 10.7% decline in 1982, industrial production rose 5.9% during 1983 to stand at a level still 5.4% lower than in 1981. (In comparison, industrial production in the United States declined 8.2% in 1982 and posted a 6.5% increase in 1983. By October 1983, U.S. industrial production had surpassed its pre-recession peak level of July 1981.)

The switch from recession to recovery in 1983 and the 2.7% growth in GDP was also reflected in gains in some other measures of economic activity:

- According to the Labour Force Survey, employment in December 1983 was at a seasonally adjusted level of 10,713,000 persons, an increase of 392,000 from December 1982.
- The unemployment rate in December 1983 was 11.1%, down from 12.8% a year earlier.
- Exports for the year were up approximately 9.0% compared to almost no growth in 1982.
- Manufacturers' shipments rebounded 5.8% following a 9.8% decline in the previous year.

The upward trend in Canada's economy throughout 1983 was evident in the movements of most areas of the economy. Industries producing consumer goods and services, and producers of intermediate inputs both posted increases in each of the four quarters of 1983. One major area which contracted further in 1983 was industries producing goods and services for capital formation.

Data users should note that Gross Domestic Product by Industry has been revised back to January 1983 to incorporate revisions. For further information, order the December 1983 issue of Gross Domestic Product by Industry (61-005, \$3.85/\$38.50).

Building Permits

The seasonally adjusted value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities reached a preliminary level of \$1,235.0 million in December 1983, little changed (-1.7%) from the revised total of \$1,255.8 million in November, and 3.1% higher than the December 1982 level of \$1,197.3 million.

Residential building permits, estimated at a seasonally adjusted \$711.7 million in December, were almost unchanged from November's total (\$713.2 million); applications were approved for the construction of 7,759 single-detached homes in December compared to 7,618 units in November, and 5,148 multiple dwellings were authorized compared to 4,924 units in November. Residential permits activity in the last three months of 1983 suggests that housing starts which were at an annual rate of 132,000 units in the last quarter of 1983 will probably be at a level of about 155,000 units in the first quarter of 1984, with single-detached dwellings forming the largest component — 90,000 units.

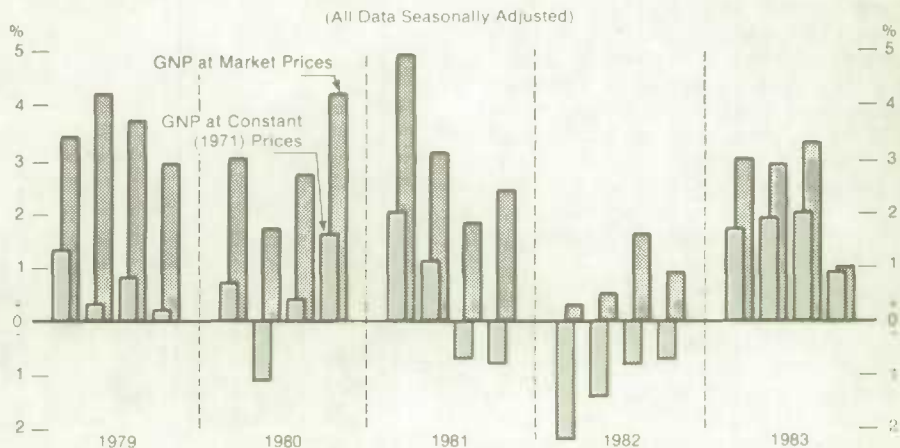
In December, permits issued for non-residential construction decreased 3.6% to a seasonally adjusted \$523.3 million from \$542.6 million in November.

For the year 1983, the value of permits issued rose 13.9% to \$14.6 billion from \$12.8 billion in 1982. The increase was entirely in the residential sector where permits increased 44.5% to \$8.9 billion in 1983 from a seven-year low of \$6.1 billion in 1982. Non-residential building permits value decreased 14.2% to \$5.7 billion in 1983 from \$6.7 billion in 1982; all three categories of non-residential permits decreased — industrial projects (-14.1%), commercial projects (-20.7%) and government-initiated projects (-3.3%).

For additional information, order the December 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 0T6.

Canada's Gross National Product (GNP)

Quarter-to-Quarter Change



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

International Travel

Preliminary statistics for January 1984 show that the number of United States residents visiting Canada declined by 5.2% from a year earlier to 1.4 million. Visitors from countries other than the U.S. increased by 12.8% to 57,000. Canadian residents re-entering this country after visits to the U.S. numbered 2.5 million, up 6.5% from January 1983, while residents returning from other countries increased by 16.6% to 205,000.

In January 1984, long-term U.S. entries (including overnight or longer auto and bus traffic and all plane, train and boat entries) increased by 1.4% from a year earlier to 292,000. Tourists from countries other than the U.S. (excluding those arriving by land via the U.S. and entering and leaving on the same day) numbered 53,000, 11.8% above January 1983. Long-term Canadian re-entries from the U.S. increased by 4.1% to 709,000, while residents of Canada returning from other countries numbered 205,000, up 16.6% from the preceding year.

For further information, order the January 1984 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 0T6.

Residential Building

The Canada total Residential Building Construction Input Price Index (1971=100) reached a level of 290.3 in January 1984, up 0.8% from the December level of 288.0.

Building materials rose 1.3% during the month due primarily to increased prices for lumber, lighting fixtures, plywood, cabinets, stucco mix, and gypsum wallboard; the only major price decrease noted was for roofing shingles. The union wage rate index at 327.2 in January remained unchanged from the level of the previous month.

Comparing January 1984 to January 1983, the Canada total index rose 6.4% with building materials up 4.4% and labour up 9.3%.

For further information, order the January 1984 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$3.30/\$33), to be released at the end of March. Users are reminded that this series is to be terminated in December 1984.

R&D in Canada, 1982

Total expenditures on scientific research and experimental development are estimated to have been \$4.6 billion in 1982, or 1.3% of Canada's Gross National Product. Expenditures of \$5.0 billion and \$5.3 billion have been forecast for 1983 and 1984, respectively.

Additional information will be contained in the March 1984 issue of *Science Statistics Service Bulletin* (88-001, \$1.60/\$16), Vol. 8, No. 3, or may be obtained by contacting the Science and Technology Statistics Division (613-995-3014), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

International Payments

The current account, on a seasonally adjusted basis, switched in the fourth quarter of 1983 to a small surplus of \$329 million, reflecting an increase in the surplus on merchandise trade. The deficit on services remained virtually unchanged. Both exports and imports of merchandise grew strongly during the quarter with the former at a relatively more rapid rate.

In the capital account (not seasonally adjusted), Canadian residents increased their borrowings from new securities abroad, producing the largest quarterly inflow of the year. The net inflow from money market borrowings was, however, substantially lower.

Year 1983

In 1983 the current account continued to register a substantial surplus (\$1.6 billion), the second largest on record. It was, however, lower than the record \$3.0 billion surplus of 1982, mainly because of an increase in the non-merchandise deficit. There was a modest decline in the merchandise trade surplus. Within the merchandise account, the surplus on automotive products rose significantly and the balance on crude petroleum shifted to a surplus, the first since 1974.

In the capital account, new issues of Canadian bonds still accounted for the largest inflow, although lower than in the previous two years. In addition there were borrowings by banks and in the Canadian money market, leading to net inflows. On the asset side, large net outflows were recorded as direct and portfolio Canadian investors increased substantially their investments abroad.

The Canadian dollar remained stable against the United States dollar in 1983, weakening somewhat in the latter part of the year. It appreciated against major overseas currencies, except against the Japanese yen.

The main annual features were:

- A current account surplus of \$1.6 billion down from the record surplus \$3.0 billion in 1982. Some 80% of this reduction was caused by a larger deficit on non-merchandise transactions (\$16.5 billion) and the remainder by a lower surplus on merchandise transactions (\$18.0 billion);
- An 8% increase in merchandise exports to a record \$91.3 billion paralleled by a higher increase (11%) in imports to \$73.2 billion. Imports, however, were still some \$4 billion lower than the record 1981 level;
- On a geographical basis, a merchandise trade surplus with the United States of \$14.4 billion, accounting for 80% of the total merchandise surplus compared with 64% and 51% in the previous two years;
- Among exports, increases in automotive products, lumber, crude petroleum, wheat, chemicals and aluminum; decreases in natural gas, aircraft and parts, iron and steel and radioactive ores.

For further information, contact L. Laliberté (613-996-2545), Balance of Payments Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Homicide Statistics, 1982

Four out of every five homicides committed in Canada in 1982 occurred in domestic, social or business situations between people who knew each other.

Between 1981 and 1982, the number of homicide victims in Canada increased by 3.4% to 670, but with 168,646 reported crimes of violence in 1982, homicides accounted for only 0.4% of these offences. These 670 homicide offences included 624 murders, 42 manslaughters and 4 infanticides.

Homicide in Canada: Statistical Highlights — 1982 a Juristat Bulletin (catalogue 85-002), released by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics' Law Enforcement Section's Homicide Program, provides the distribution of homicide offences by province and includes a review of homicide rates for the five-year period from 1978-1982. Other highlights included are suspect and victim profiles and methods of committing homicide offences.

For further information, contact Joanne M. Lacroix (613-995-0855), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Section, Statistics Canada, R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Urban Transit

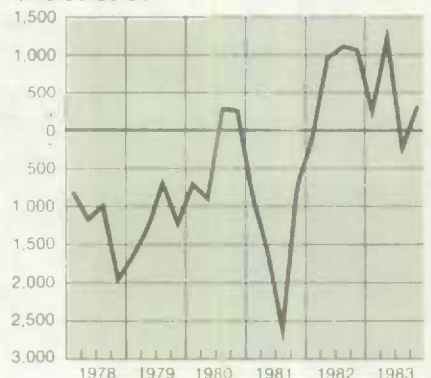
Canadian urban transit systems (64) collected 113,993,642 initial passenger fares in January 1984. The total distance run was 58 095 260 kilometres and operating revenues amounted to \$63.5 million.

For further information, order the January 1984 issue of *Urban Transit* (53-003, \$1.60/\$16), or contact the head (613-995-1976), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Canadian Balance of International Payments

Current Account — Seasonally Adjusted

Millions of Dollars



Source: Statistics Canada, Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments (67-001)



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BUSINESS FINANCE			
Industrial Corporations: Financial Statistics (Preliminary Data), Fourth Quarter 1983	61-003	(N/C)	(N/C)
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Population, Private Households, Census Families in Private Households: Income — Manitoba, 1981 Census of Canada	93-955	\$5.50	\$6.60
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Quarterly Shipments of Office Furniture Products, Quarter Ended December 31, 1983	35-006	\$2.75/\$11	\$3.30/\$13.20
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The Sugar Situation, January 1984	32-013	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
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Service Bulletin			
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