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Weekly Bulletin



April 13, 1984

## Canadian Trade

On a seasonally adjusted balance-of-payments basis, preliminary results indicate that Canada's total exports decreased 4.9% or \$435 million to \$8.4 billion in February 1984, following increases of \$310 million in January, \$15 million in December and \$805 million in November 1983. Imports increased 7.8% or \$525 million to \$7.3 billion, after a decline of \$140 million in January and increases of \$185 million in December and \$110 million in November 1983. As a result, the merchandise trade surplus dropped \$965 million to \$1.1 billion in February, following an increase of \$450 million in January, a \$170 million decline in December and a \$695 million increase in November 1983.

Growth in the short term trend for total exports, which accelerated with increases moving up from 1.4% in August 1983 to 2.8% in November 1983, slowed with an increase of 2.4% in December 1983. The imports short term trend, which had recovered sooner and more strongly than total exports with gains up from a 1.7% increase in May to one of 3.3% in August 1983, slowed with the increases decelerating from 3.0% in September to 1.7% in December 1983. As a result, the trend for the merchandise trade surplus, after an April/May peak at \$1,655 million, retracted by \$290 million up to September and then turned up again with increases of \$60 million in October, \$95 million in November and \$80 million in December 1983.

The largest decreases in value for domestic exports (seasonally adjusted, Customs basis) in February 1984 were for passenger cars (down 16% or \$200 million to \$1,070 million, following increases of \$190 million in January, \$210 million in December 1983 and a \$140 million increase from August to November 1983) and motor vehicle parts (down 13% or \$130 million to \$840 million, after increases of \$95 million in December, \$60 million in November, and \$130 million in October 1983). Other large decreases were for wheat (down 30% or \$120 million to \$280 million, following a \$65 million increase in January) and iron ores, concentrates and scrap (down 65% or \$95 million to \$50 million, after increases of \$15 million in January and \$90 million in December 1983). Other decreases were for newsprint (down 19% or \$75 million to \$310 million),

(continued on next page)

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Jan.	399.75	395.72	
Labour Income (\$ million)	Jan.*	18,455.8	18,595.5	7.9
Persons with Jobs (million)	Mar.	10.60	10.56	2.8
Unemployed	Mar.*	1,541,000	1,476,000	-7.9

### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Jan.	3,058.2	3,222.5	12.3
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Jan.	31,217.6	30,767.0	1.2

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Jan.	17,745.5	16,526.5	23.9
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Jan.	20,845.1	20,143.0	30.1

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Feb.	120.9	120.2	5.5
New House Price Index (1981=100)	Feb.*	95.1	94.9	0.4
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Feb.	215.6	214.0	3.2
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Feb.	159.8	157.3	7.2
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Feb.	306.3	304.9	4.4

### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Jan.	666.6	666.6	0.6
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb.	6,710	15,345	1.1

### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Dec.	4,371	44,882	4.8
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Dec.	40.7	395.5	5.1
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Nov.	8,791.7	84,827.3	-4.5
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Jan.	7.8	7.8	4.7

### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Feb.*	8,462	16,806	28.1
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Feb.*	7,259	13,858	33.8

### PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Feb.	18.7	35.5	25.9
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Mar.*	1,336.7	3,771.6	42.0

### SALES

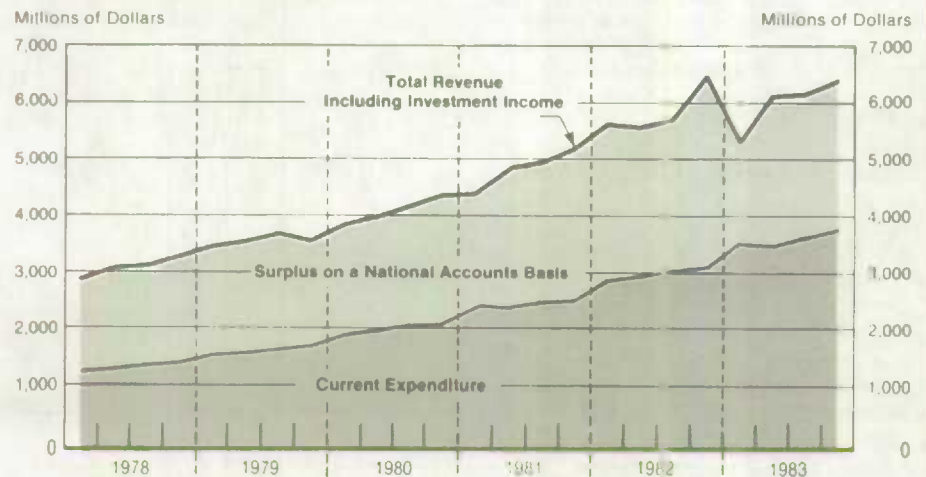
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb.*	659.3	1,308.7	6.6
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Jan.	17,043.4	17,043.4	22.7
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.*	1,120.6	2,044.2	62.1
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.*	7,767.2	15,393.4	12.6

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

\* - new this week.

## Canada Pension Plan

(Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates)



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

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## Weekly Bulletin

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woodpulp (down 21% or \$75 million to \$240 million, partly the result of the lockout in the pulp and paper industry in British Columbia) and other transportation equipment including aircraft (down 23% or \$55 million to \$190 million, following an \$80 million increase in January).

The only significant increase in February was for oilseed exports (up 135% or \$80 million to \$145 million); most of this increase was attributable to exports to Europe.

The largest import increases were for crude petroleum (up 61% or \$120 million to \$320 million, following declines of \$45 million in January, \$50 million in December and \$245 million in November 1983), precious metals (up 120% or \$70 million to \$125 million, after a \$50 million decline in January) and petroleum and coal products (up 47% or \$50 million to \$160 million).

The largest decrease was for imports of aircraft (down 38% or \$70 million to \$120 million, following a \$60 million increase in January).

For further information, order the February 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), Trade Measures and Analysis Section, External Trade Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Labour Income

Labour income for the month of January 1984 was estimated at \$18,455.8 million, an increase of \$1,350.5 million or 7.9% from January 1983.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries decreased by \$15.6 million between December 1983 and January 1984 to \$17,106.4 million.

The estimates will be published in the January-March 1984 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.

## New Motor Vehicle Sales

Total retail sales of new motor vehicles continued to climb at a rapid pace in February 1984, increasing 49.8% over the same month last year to 92,391 units. This followed a strong 45.2% gain recorded in January 1984.

Compared to February 1983, sales of North American manufactured passenger cars and commercial vehicles registered notable increases in the latest month: passenger car sales jumped 62.0% to 51,934 units and commercial vehicles 89.2% to 19,442 units. Sales of overseas manufactured passenger cars rose 8.9% from the same month last year to 18,156 units and commercial vehicles were up 6.8% to 2,859 units.

Total dollar value of all new motor vehicles sold in February 1984 increased 64.6% from a year earlier to \$1,120.6 million. North American passenger cars sold were valued at \$585.3 million (up 71.7% over the same month in the preceding year) and commercial vehicles totalled \$285.6 million (up 92.2%). Sales of overseas passenger cars rose by 32.4% to \$221.2 million, and those of commercial vehicles were 15.8% higher at \$28.5 million.

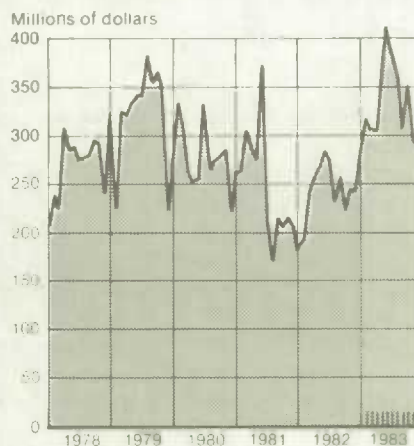
All provinces registered higher sales (in units) in February 1984 compared to the same month a year earlier, with advances ranging from +25.0% in Prince Edward Island to +71.0% in Quebec.

Cumulative total sales of all new passenger cars and commercial vehicles for the first two months of 1984 showed an increase of 47.6% over the same period last year and reached 169,351 units valued at \$2,044.2 million (up 62.1%).

Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, preliminary estimates of unit sales in February 1984 of passenger cars built in North America decreased 6.0% from January 1984.

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

## Canadian Exports of Lumber



Source: Statistics Canada, Summary of External Trade (65-001)

## Pension Plans

Almost two million people were paid a total of \$4.1 billion in Canada and Quebec Pension Plans benefits in 1982-83. This compares with total payments of \$189.6 million made to 331,000 recipients in 1971-72.

Of the total amount paid in 1982-83, some \$2.6 billion went to beneficiaries as retirement pensions, \$974.7 million as survivors' benefits and \$544.1 million as disability benefits.

*Canada and Quebec Pension Plans, 1984* (catalogue 86-507; Canada, \$7; other countries: \$8.40), the third in a series of seven reports on national social security programs, traces these plans since their inception in 1965, reporting on contributions, investment and other income, expenditures and fund balances.

Copies can be obtained from Publication Sales and Services, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6, or any of the Bureau's regional reference centres.

## Retail Trade

Strong sales by car dealers in February 1984 contributed notably to a total retail trade increase of 14.6% over the same month last year. Total retail sales in February 1984 reached \$7,767.2 million in current dollars, posting the highest gain since July 1981. Excluding the automotive group, retail sales showed a more conservative 8.3% increase. Sales increases were reported in February in every kind of business covered, with the largest advances for motor vehicle dealers (+41.3%), garages (+22.5%) and household furniture stores (+19.5%).

All provinces and territories showed higher sales when compared to the same month the previous year, with gains ranging from +24.7% in Prince Edward Island to +7.6% in Saskatchewan. At the metropolitan area level, sales improved in all cities for which data are published.

Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, retail sales of \$9,243.4 million in February decreased 0.5% from the preceding month's revised total of \$9,290.0 million.

For further information, order the February 1984 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, \$3.85/\$38.50), or contact Jean-Pierre Simard (613-996-9304), Retail Trade Section, Merchandising and Services Division.

## Production of Raw Steel

Preliminary estimates show steel ingot production in Canada rose 24.1% to 1 336 738 tonnes in March 1984 from 1 076 730 tonnes a year earlier.

For further information, order the March 1984 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$2.75/\$27.50), or contact G.W. Barrett (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.



## New Housing Price Index

The New Housing Price Index (1981=100) increased 0.2% in February 1984 to a level of 95.1 from 94.9 in January. This index of housing contractors' selling prices now stands 0.4% higher than its year-earlier level of 94.7.

Between January 1984 and February 1984, the largest increase in new housing prices was recorded for Saint John-Moncton (4.4%), followed by London (2.7%) and Ottawa-Hull (1.9%). Increases were also registered for Kitchener (1.5%), Thunder Bay (1.5%), Montreal (1.1%), Quebec City (0.8%), Winnipeg (0.5%), St. John's (0.3%) and Windsor (0.3%). Decreased prices were registered for Saskatoon (-0.8%), Edmonton (-0.6%), Calgary (-0.5%) and Toronto (-0.2%).

Between February 1983 and February 1984, the largest year-over-year increase in new housing prices was posted for Saint John-Moncton (12.9%), followed by Ottawa-Hull (11.8%), Montreal (9.7%), Windsor (7.7%), Thunder Bay (7.4%), Quebec City (6.5%), Winnipeg (5.4%), Kitchener (5.3%) and London (5.1%). Lower year-over-year increases, ranging between 1.7% and 4.8%, were recorded for St. John's, Vancouver, St. Catharines-Niagara, Regina and Hamilton. A significant year-over-year drop in prices was registered for Calgary (-11.4%), while smaller declines occurred in Edmonton (-3.6%), Victoria (-2.8%), Saskatoon (-1.0%) and Toronto (-0.5%).

For further information, order *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$3.30/\$33), or contact *Prices Division* (613-996-3744), *Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

## International Travel

Preliminary statistics for February 1984 show that the number of United States residents visiting Canada increased by 2.4% from a year earlier to 1.5 million. Visitors from countries other than the U.S. increased by 10.5% to 55,000. Canadian residents re-entering this country after visits to the U.S. numbered 2.4 million, up 8.1% from February 1983, while residents returning from other countries increased by 29.4% to 166,000.

For the first two months of 1984, the international travel flows were as follows: a total of 2.9 million U.S. residents entered Canada, down 1.4% from last year; visitors from other countries increased by 11.6% to 112,000; Canadians returning from the U.S. numbered 5.0 million, up 7.3% from January-February 1983, while Canadian re-entries from other countries increased by 22.0% to 371,000.

For further information, order the *February 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*.

## Petroleum/Natural Gas

Production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons in December 1983 amounted to 7 581.1 thousand cubic metres, up 3.6% from a year earlier. Exports climbed 22.6% to 1 522.8 thousand cubic metres, while imports declined 5.0% to 900.8 thousand cubic metres.

Production of natural gas amounted to 9 752.5 million cubic metres in December, up 9.5% from December 1982. Exports rose 6.7% to 2 577.1 million cubic metres. Sales in Canada jumped 25.5% to 5 713.5 million cubic metres.

For the year 1983, production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons amounted to 83 933.4 thousand cubic metres, up 5.9% from the 1982 level. Exports rose sharply by 37.2% to 17 015.3 thousand cubic metres, while imports fell by 27.0% to 14 352.5 thousand cubic metres.

Production of natural gas in 1983 amounted to 83 311.2 million cubic metres, down 4.4% from 1982. Exports were down 9.2% to 20 169.4 million cubic metres. Sales in Canada slipped 0.2% to 43 831.5 million cubic metres.

For further information, order the *December 1983 issue of Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, \$2.75/\$27.50), or contact *Richard Godin* (613-996-3139), *Energy Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

## Department Store Sales

Department stores in Canada had sales totalling \$659.3 million in February 1984, an increase of 9.1% from a year earlier. Cumulative sales for January-February 1984 amounted to \$1,308.7 million, up 6.6% from the first two months of 1983.

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

- Ontario, \$232.3 million (+10.9%)
- Quebec, \$122.3 million (+15.8%)
- British Columbia, \$112.1 million (-0.2%)
- Alberta, \$95.6 million (+3.9%)
- Atlantic provinces, \$42.2 million (+18.9%)
- Manitoba, \$33.1 million (+7.1%)
- Saskatchewan, \$21.8 million (+20.0%).

Data users should note that the figures for *British Columbia* include as well those for the *Yukon and Northwest Territories*. See the *February 1984 issue of Department Store Sales by Regions* (63-004, \$1.60/\$16).

## Telephone Systems: Revenues/Expenses

Canada's 13 major telephone systems reported revenues of \$721.2 million in January 1984, up 10.2% from a year earlier. Operating expenses increased 11.8% over the 12-month period to \$507.4 million. Net operating revenue at \$213.8 million showed an increase of 6.7% from January 1983.

For further information, order the *January 1984 issue of Telephone Statistics* (56-002, \$1.60/\$16), or contact *J.R. Slattery* (613-996-9271), *Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

## Labour Force Activity

Canada's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continued to edge up in March 1984, moving to 11.4% from 11.3% in February. The participation rate decreased to 64.3% from 64.5% in the preceding month and the employment/population ratio moved down to 57.0% from 57.2%.

Employment for the week ending March 17, 1984 was at a seasonally adjusted level of 10,878,000 persons, a decrease of 31,000 from February. The decline in employment was concentrated entirely among males — specifically those in the 25 years of age and over group. The estimated level of full-time employment was little changed from that of February, but part-time employment dropped by 20,000. Employment declined by 17,000 in the construction industry and marginally in the trade and service industries. On a provincial basis, employment declined in Ontario (-12,000) and Alberta (-7,000) while increasing in Quebec (+10,000).

Unemployment showed a marginal 4,000 increase in March to a total of 1,399,000 persons. Unemployment increased by 16,000 for those aged 25 and over (by 10,000 for males and 6,000 for females) but decreased by 12,000 for those aged 15 to 24. Provincially unemployment rose by 14,000 in Ontario, by 4,000 in Saskatchewan and by 5,000 in Alberta; in Quebec, unemployment declined by 16,000.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the provinces in March were as follows, with February rates in brackets: Newfoundland, 20.3% (19.8%); Prince Edward Island, 12.5% (12.5%); Nova Scotia, 12.7% (13.2%); New Brunswick, 14.7% (14.3%); Quebec, 13.0% (13.5%); Ontario, 9.4% (9.1%); Manitoba, 8.2% (8.5%); Saskatchewan, 8.4% (7.6%); Alberta, 10.7% (10.3%) and British Columbia, 14.4% (14.5%).

Unadjusted, the level of employment for Canada in March 1984 was 10,595,000, an increase of 286,000 (+2.8%) from a year earlier. Unemployment declined by 133,000 (-7.9%) to 1,541,000 from 1,674,000 over the 12-month period. The unemployment rate was 12.7% in the latest month, down from 14.0% in March 1983, while the participation rate was unchanged at 63.6% and the employment/population ratio was up to 55.5% from 54.7% in the preceding year.

For further information, order the *March 1984 issue of The Labour Force* (71-001, \$3.85/\$38.50).

## Restaurants/Caterers/Taverns

Preliminary estimates for February 1984 show restaurant, caterer and tavern establishments in Canada had receipts totalling \$762.2 million, up 6.7% from February 1983.

Revised total receipts for January 1984 were \$725.7 million, an increase of 3.9% over January 1983.

For further information on provincial totals by kind of business and on chains versus independents, order *Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics* (63-011, \$1.60/\$16).



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## THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED APRIL 6 — 12

	Cata- logue No.	In Canada: Price per issue/year	Elsewhere: Price per issue/year
<b>AGRICULTURE STATISTICS</b>			
Field Crop Reporting Series, No. 2, March Intentions of Principal Field Crop Areas, Canada, 1984	22-002	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
<b>CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS</b>			
Crime and Traffic Enforcement Statistics, 1982	85-205	\$11.10	\$13.30
<b>CANSIM</b>			
Canadian Statistical Review, March 1984	11-003E	\$3.80/\$38.50	\$4.60/\$46
<b>CENSUS</b>			
Agriculture: Evaluation of Data Quality, 1981 Census of Canada	96-918	\$7.50	\$9.50
Occupied Private Dwellings, Private Households, Census Families in Private Households, Selected Characteristics, Newfoundland, 1981 Census of Canada	93-937	\$9.50	\$11.40
Occupied Private Dwellings, Private Households, Census Families in Private Households, Selected Characteristics, Prince Edward Island, 1981 Census of Canada	93-938	\$5.50	\$6.60
Occupied Private Dwellings, Private Households, Census Families in Private Households, Selected Characteristics, Yukon, 1981 Census of Canada	93-947	\$4	\$4.80
Population: Language, Ethnic Origin, Religion, Place of Birth, Schooling, Newfoundland, 1981 Census of Canada	93-925	\$7.50	\$9
<b>MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES</b>			
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables — Monthly, January 1984	32-011	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers, February 1984	36-004	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Electric Power Statistics, December 1983	57-001	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, February 1984	43-005	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Gypsum Products, February 1984	44-003	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Hardware, Tool and Cutlery Manufacturers, 1982	41-208	\$5	\$6
Office and Store Machinery Manufacturers, 1982	42-216	\$5	\$6
Refined Petroleum Products, December 1983	45-004	\$3.85/\$38.50	\$4.60/\$46
Rubber Products Industries, 1982	33-206	\$5	\$6
Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, March 1984	32-012	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
<b>MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES</b>			
Merchandising Inventories, January 1984	63-014	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
<b>PUBLIC FINANCE</b>			
Canada and Quebec Pension Plans, 1984	86-507	\$7	\$8.40
<b>TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>			
Air Carrier Operations in Canada, October-December 1981	51-002	\$6.65/\$26.50	\$7.95/\$31.90
<b>Service Bulletins</b>			
Communications, Vol. 14, No. 1, Telecommunication Statistics, Fourth Quarter 1983	56-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Railway Transport, Vol. 14, No. 2, Railway Carloadings, January 1984	52-004	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19

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