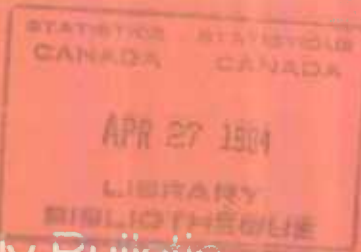


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Weekly Bulletin



April 27, 1984

## Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in February 1984 continued to increase sharply, climbing 20.8% over the same period last year. (Revised sales for January 1984 were up 16.6% from the January 1983 level.)

In February 1984, all trade groups except farm machinery, equipment and supplies (-1.4%) recorded sales increases from a year earlier. The most notable gains were reported by wholesalers of motor vehicles and accessories (+47.5%), metal and metal products (+42.2%), drug and toilet preparations (+34.0%) and machinery and equipment n.e.s. (+26.6%). All provinces posted sales increases from a year earlier, ranging from +25.5% in New Brunswick to +5.8% in Prince Edward Island.

Cumulative sales by wholesale merchants for the first two months of 1984 were up 18.7% over the January-February 1983 period.

Wholesale merchants' inventories in February 1984 increased by 3.6% from the corresponding period in 1983. (Revised wholesale inventories for January 1984 were up 0.9% from the January 1983 level.)

For further information, order the February 1984 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$1.60/\$16).

## Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index at 121.2 (1981=100) in March rose 0.2% from the February level of 120.9. The increase in the latest month was largely attributable to higher food prices and housing charges and, to a lesser extent, to increased prices for clothing and for tobacco and alcohol. Partially offsetting the impact of these increases was a decline in the transportation component. The food index advanced by 0.8% between February and March, following two months of increases in excess of 1%. The all-items-excluding-food index rose 0.1% in March, down from the increase of 0.5% registered between January and February.

The year-over-year increase in the CPI, as measured by comparing the index of March 1984 to that of March 1983, was 4.7%, down from the advance of 5.5% registered between February 1983 and February 1984.

For further information, order the March 1984 issue of *The Consumer Price Index* (62-001, \$2.75/\$27.50).

## 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)	Feb.*	3,146.5	3,058.2	17.1
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb.*	31,550.4	31,227.3	2.0

### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb.*	17,846.3	17,659.3	19.2
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb.*	21,009.6	20,788.8	28.4

### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Mar.*	121.2	120.9	4.7
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

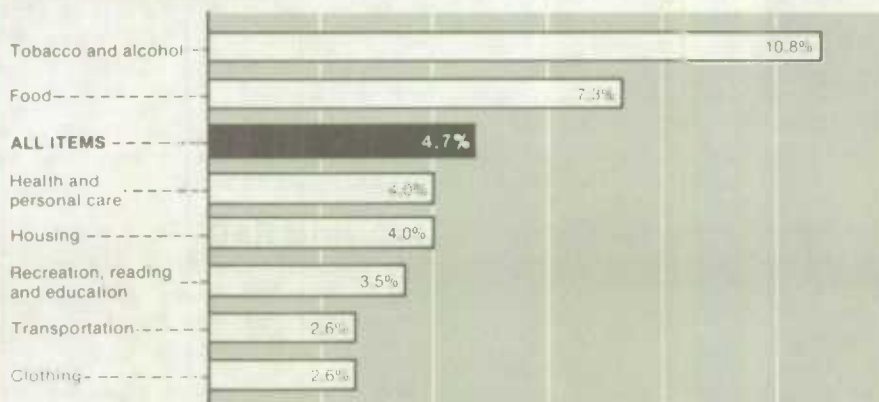
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	659.3	1,308.7	6.6
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.*	17,625.4	34,638.9	21.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	1,120.6	2,044.2	62.1
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	7,767.2	15,393.4	12.6

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

\* - new this week.

## Percentage Change in the Consumer Price Index and its Major Components

March 1983 to March 1984



Source: Statistics Canada, The Consumer Price Index (62-001)

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## Weekly Bulletin

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### Security Transactions

Trading with non-residents in outstanding Canadian securities produced a net capital outflow of \$58 million in February 1984, compared with a net inflow of \$73 million in January:

- a net outflow of \$135 million was recorded in trade in outstanding Canadian equities with non-residents in February, more than double the net disinvestment recorded in the previous month and the largest monthly net outflow since late 1981;
- non-residents acquired, on a net basis, \$77 million of outstanding Canadian bonds, some \$50 million less than in January. While in recent months foreign investors have tended to prefer outstanding issues of provincial governments (including their enterprises), the net investment in the current month was largely in Government of Canada issues.

For further information, order the February 1984 issue of *Security Transactions with Non-residents* (67-002, \$2.75/\$27.50).

### Unemployment Insurance 1982

With the recession taking hold in 1982, the number of unemployment insurance contributors decreased 2.3% to 11.2 million from 11.4 million in 1981. The amount of contributions for employees fell by a similar percentage: the drop reflected both lower employment and a premium reduction to \$1.65 per \$100 of insurable earnings from \$1.80 in 1981 that was partly offset by an increase in the maximum weekly insurable earnings to \$350 in 1982 from \$315 in 1981.

The 11.2 million persons covered by unemployment insurance in 1982 contributed \$2.054 billion. These contributors had estimated insurable earnings of \$124 billion in 1982 and earnings from employment of \$179 billion.

For additional statistical information, contact Horst Stiebert or George Fincham (613-995-7165), Unemployment Insurance Statistics Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Department Store Sales

Department store sales climbed to \$659.3 million in February 1984, up 9.1% over the February 1983 level. Sales were higher in 34 of the 40 departments with the largest increases for women's and misses' coats and suits (+37.5%), toys and games (+34.7%) and gasoline, oil, auto accessories, repairs and supplies (+28.6%). The most notable decreases were recorded by furs (-18.1%), smallwares and notions (-5.8%) and housewares and small electrical appliances (-2.1%).

In February 1984, department stores registered sales increases over the previous year in all provinces except British Columbia which showed a decrease of 0.4%: sales advances ranged from 24.5% in Nova Scotia to 3.9% in Alberta. Nine of the 10 metropolitan areas surveyed reported sales increases, with gains ranging from 23.2% in Quebec City to 1.1% in Calgary; sales decreased by 2.5% in Vancouver.

Sales by major department store organizations in February 1984 totalled \$426.5 million, up 6.6% from February 1983. Junior department store organizations had sales of \$232.8 million, an increase of 14.1%.

In February 1984, total department store sales constituted 8.5% of all retail sales in Canada, down from the 8.9% share held in the February 1983 period.

Adjusted for seasonal variations and the number of trading days, total department store sales in February 1984 increased 1.6% to \$935.0 million from the revised January 1984 level of \$920.7 million. Among the 23 departments recording higher sales, the largest increases were reported by women's and misses' coats and suits (+15.7%), china and glassware (+14.9%) and women's, misses' and children's footwear (+9.9%). The largest sales decreases were recorded by furs (-38.0%), plumbing, heating and building materials (-12.3%) and smallwares and notions (-10.0%).

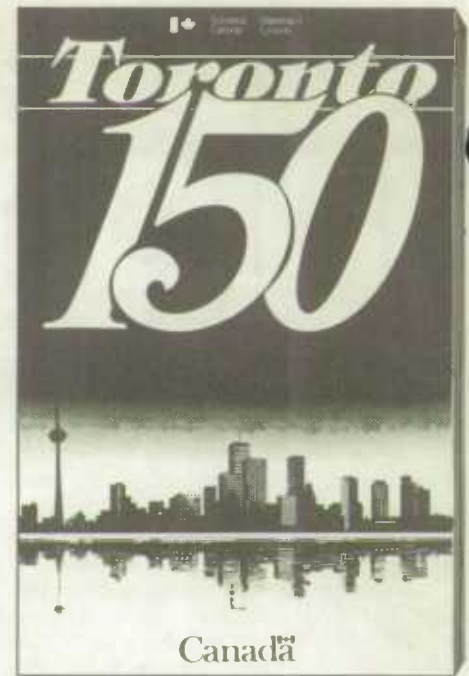
The unadjusted selling value of inventories held by department stores in February 1984 was \$3,146.5 million, an increase of 17.1% over the same month a year earlier. Seasonally adjusted, the value of stocks held increased 2.9% from the preceding month's revised value of \$3,412.2 million to a level of \$3,512.1 million.

For further information, order the February 1984 issue of *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (63-002, \$3.30/\$33).

### Industrial R&D

Expenditures on research and development in Canadian industry have been forecast at \$2.673 billion for 1984, an increase of less than 5% over 1983.

For more information, order *Industrial Research and Development Expenditures, Science Statistics Service Bulletin* (catalogue 88-001, \$1.60/\$16), Vol. 8, No. 4.



### A Changing City

The City of Toronto celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. Statistics Canada marks this historic event with *Toronto 150*, a statistical portrait.

Through graphs, text and photographs, *Toronto 150* describes many aspects of life in Toronto and its metropolitan area.

Copies of *Toronto 150: Portrait of a Changing City* (no. 11-X-523, \$9.95) are available from authorized booksellers, the Casual Sales Unit, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6, or the nearest Statistics Canada regional reference centre.

For further information, contact Françoise Singh (613-996-0153), Business, Provincial and Municipal Relations, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Residential Building

The Residential Building Construction Input Price Index for Canada (1971=100) increased 0.9% in February 1984 to 292.8 from 290.3 in January.

### Non-residential Building

The Non-residential Building Construction Input Price Index for Canada (1971=100) rose 0.2% in February 1984 to 304.2 from the January level of 303.6. The labour component of the total index remained unchanged from 327.8.

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



## Refined Petroleum/Natural Gas Sales

Preliminary figures for February 1984 show sales of refined petroleum products in Canada decreased by 2.6% from a year earlier, while sales of natural gas increased by 9.9%. For the first two months of 1984, sales of petroleum products rose 1.3% from the January-February 1983 level, and sales of natural gas were up by 11.9%.

Sales of petroleum products by Canadian refiners and major distributors during February 1984 amounted to 6 300 600 cubic metres, down 2.6% from a year earlier.

For January-February 1984, sales of refined petroleum products amounted to 13 041 267 cubic metres, up 1.3% from the level recorded during the same period of 1983. Year-to-date production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners amounted to 15 116 224 cubic metres, up 6.7% from January-February 1983.

Sales of natural gas by main distributors in February 1984 amounted to 5 266 924 thousand cubic metres, up 9.9% from a year earlier. For the first two months of 1984, sales of natural gas amounted to 11 188 219 thousand cubic metres, up 11.9% from the level recorded during January-February 1983.

For further information, order the February 1984 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, \$3.85/\$38.50) 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.

## Coal Exports/Imports

Coal production increased by 12.2% to 4 296 kilotonnes in December 1983 from 3 828 KT a year earlier. Exports increased by 24.9% to 1 508 KT from 1 208 KT; landed imports were up 163.8% to 1 723 KT from 653 KT.

Production of coal for the year 1983 totalled 44 787 KT, up 4.6% from 42 811 KT in the January-December 1982 period. Exports of coal rose 6.3% to 17 011 KT from 16 004 KT and landed imports were down 7.3% to 14 346 KT from 15 481 KT.

For further information, order the December 1983 issue of *Coal and Coke Statistics* (45-002, \$2.75/\$27.50), or contact Richard Godin (613-996-3139), Energy Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Oil Pipeline Transport

Net receipts of crude oil, condensates, pentanes plus, liquified petroleum gases and petroleum products through Canadian oil pipelines during January 1984 increased 6.7% to 12 437 084 cubic metres from 11 659 093 cubic metres in January 1983.

For further information, order the January 1984 issue of *Oil Pipeline Transport* (55-001, \$2.75/\$27.50), or contact Richard Godin (613-996-3139), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Inventories/Shipment/Orders

Manufacturers' shipments in February 1984 were estimated at \$17,625.4 million, 3.6% higher than the revised January value of \$17,013.5 million. Cumulative shipments for the first two months of 1984 at an estimated \$34,638.9 million were up 21.5% from the January-February 1983 level of \$28,514.1 million.

Seasonally adjusted, value of new orders decreased 6.7% to \$17,748.6 million from the revised January estimate of \$19,031.7 million. In durable goods industries, new orders with an estimated value of \$7,735.7 million fell 12.3% from the January level of \$8,825.2 million; most of the decrease reflected losses of \$648.5 million in the transportation equipment industries and \$316.6 million in primary metal industries. In non-durable goods industries, new orders received had an estimated value of \$10,012.9 million, down 1.9% from the revised estimate of \$10,206.5 million in January.

The seasonally adjusted unfilled orders backlog of manufacturers at the end of February was \$20,600.4 million, down 0.6% from the revised January estimate of \$20,728.3 million. Unfilled orders decreased 0.8% in durable goods industries to \$18,438.5 million from \$18,590.6 million at the end of January, while in non-durable goods industries, the estimate was up 1.1% to \$2,161.9 million from \$2,137.7 million a month earlier.

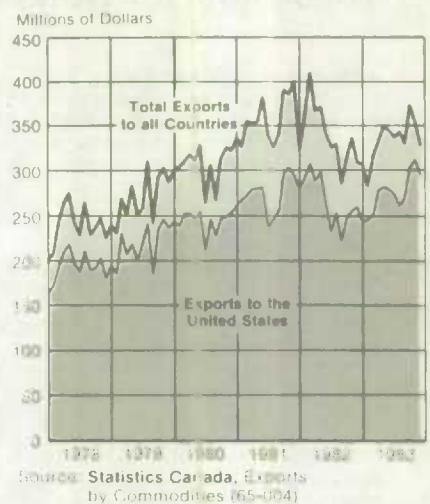
Manufacturers' shipments in February were \$17,876.5 million, seasonally adjusted, down 5.6% from January's revised value of \$18,928.0 million. In durable goods industries, shipments dropped 9.7% to \$7,887.8 million from \$8,735.5 million with a \$553.3 million decrease in the transportation equipment industries accounting for most of the loss. Shipments of non-durable goods industries decreased 2.0% to \$9,988.7 million from \$10,192.7 million a month earlier.

Inventory owned by manufacturers at the end of February was \$31,224.2 million, seasonally adjusted, up 0.5% from the previous month's revised value of \$31,054.2 million. Total inventory held increased 0.6% to \$32,542.8 million from \$32,350.9 million in January with increases of 1.3% in goods in process and of 0.8% in raw materials, but a decline of 0.1% in finished products.

The seasonally adjusted ratio of total inventory owned to shipments at the end of February was 1.75:1, up from 1.64:1 in January. The ratio of finished products inventory to shipments went to 0.63:1 in February from 0.59:1 in January.

For further information, order the February 1984 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, \$3.85/\$38.50). For further information, contact J. Lepage (613-996-7008), Shipments, Inventories and Orders Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Exports of Newsprint Paper



## Farm Cash Receipts

Farm cash receipts for January-February 1984 totalled an estimated \$3,712.0 million, down 3.5% from the year-earlier level of \$3,846.2 million.

Receipts from the sale of field crops declined 5.1% to \$2,175.6 million in the latest period from last year's estimate of \$2,292.0 million. Oats, flaxseed, rye, rapeseed, potatoes, corn and soybeans were up, while cash 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 \$1,452.1 million in January-February 1984, down 3.1% from the 1983 level of \$1,498.0 million.

Other cash receipts were up 50% to \$84.3 million from the previous year's total of \$56.2 million.

For further information, order the January-February 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.

## Canadian Imports of Communication and Related Equipment





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**AGRICULTURE STATISTICS**

Farm Cash Receipts, January-February 1984  
Farm Wages in Canada, February 1984  
Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, March 1, 1984  
The Dairy Review, February 1984

**BUSINESS FINANCE**

Cheques Cashed, February 1984

**CENSUS**

The Elderly in Canada, 1981 Census of Canada  
Occupied Private Dwellings, Private Households, Census Families in Private Households  
— Selected Characteristics:

British Columbia, 1981 Census of Canada  
Manitoba, 1981 Census of Canada  
New Brunswick, 1981 Census of Canada  
Northwest Territories, 1981 Census of Canada  
Nova Scotia, 1981 Census of Canada  
Québec, 1981 Census of Canada  
Saskatchewan, 1981 Census of Canada

Population — Language, Ethnic Origin, Religion, Place of Birth, Schooling:

Alberta, 1981 Census of Canada  
British Columbia, 1981 Census of Canada  
Manitoba, 1981 Census of Canada  
New Brunswick, 1981 Census of Canada  
Nova Scotia, 1981 Census of Canada  
Prince Edward Island, 1981 Census of Canada  
Saskatchewan, 1981 Census of Canada

Population: Schooling, Northwest Territories, 1981 Census of Canada

Population: Schooling, Yukon, 1981 Census of Canada

**CONSTRUCTION**

Investment Statistics — Manufacturing Sub-industries and Selected Energy Related Industries, Intentions 1984

**EXTERNAL TRADE**

Summary of External Trade, February 1984

**FINANCIAL FLOWS AND MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES**

International Travel — Advance Information, February 1984

**INDUSTRY PRODUCT**

Gross Domestic Product by Industry, January 1984

**LABOUR**

Employment, Earnings and Hours, January 1984  
Trusteed Pension Plans, Financial Statistics, 1982

**LABOUR FORCE SURVEY**

The Labour Force, March 1984

**MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

Asphalt Roofing, February 1984  
Canadian Forestry Statistics, 1982  
Cement, February 1984  
Construction Type Plywood, February 1984  
Footwear Statistics, February 1984  
Gas Utilities: Transport and Distribution Systems, 1982  
Gas Utilities, December 1983  
Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins, February 1984  
Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, January 1984  
Leather Industries, 1982  
Meat and Poultry Products Industries, 1982  
Men's Clothing Industries, 1982  
Miscellaneous Non-metallic Mineral Manufacturers, 1982  
Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard, February 1984  
Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada, February 1984  
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, January 1984  
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, January 1984  
Pulp and Paper Mills, 1982  
Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, February 1984  
Rigid Insulating Board, February 1984  
Scientific and Professional Equipment Industries, 1982  
Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances, February 1984  
Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, February 1984

**MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES**

Department Store Sales and Stocks, January 1984  
Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics, January 1984

**PRICES**

Industry Price Indexes, February 1984

**TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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