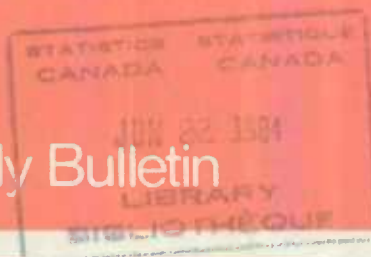


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Weekly Bulletin



June 22, 1984

Inventories/Shipments/Orders

Seasonally adjusted, the value of new orders received in manufacturing industries in April increased 0.7% to \$18,802.5 million from the revised March estimate of \$18,680.4 million. In durable goods industries, decreases of \$122.1 million in primary metal industries and \$73.3 million in metal fabricating industries were only partly offset by an increase of \$151.9 million in electrical products industries as new orders edged down 0.1% to \$8,339.6 million from \$8,351.8 million in the preceding month. In non-durable goods industries, new orders received were valued at \$10,462.9 million, up 1.3% from the revised March estimate of \$10,328.6 million.

The seasonally adjusted unfilled orders backlog at the end of April was \$21,199.0 million, up 1.1% from the revised March level of \$20,964.4 million. Unfilled orders increased 1.0% in durable goods industries to \$18,987.2 million from \$18,799.2 million at the end of March and in non-durable goods industries, the estimate was up 2.2% to \$2,211.8 million from \$2,165.2 million a month earlier.

Manufacturers' shipments in April 1984 increased 1.2% to \$18,567.9 million, seasonally adjusted, from \$18,353.8 million (revised) in March. Shipments of durable goods industries rose 0.7% to \$8,151.6 million from \$8,095.5 million. In non-durable goods industries, shipments increased 1.5% to \$10,416.3 million from \$10,258.3 million with a \$93.6 million increase in paper

(continued on page 2)

Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index — 121.7 in May — was up 0.2% from the April level of 121.5. This marked the third consecutive month in which increases of considerably less than 0.5% have been registered. This latest moderate advance in the index was largely attributable to increases in the transportation and the recreation, reading and education components and, to a lesser extent, to advances in the housing and the tobacco and alcohol components.

The year-over-year increase in the CPI was 4.8%, remaining in the same range of increases observed in April (4.9%) and March (4.7%).

For further information, order the May 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 (\$)	Mar	400.17	398.71	4.9
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb	18,447.3	18,446.6	7.8
Persons with Jobs (million)	May	11.01	10.67	2.2
Unemployed	May	1,460,000	1,468,000	-2.8

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Apr *	3,604.9	3,398.4	13.8
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Apr *	32,343.3	32,161.5	4.9

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Apr *	18,654.0	19,830.0	15.8
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Apr *	21,546.4	21,258.6	31.9

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	May *	121.7	121.5	4.8
New House Price Index (1981=100)	Apr	95.5	95.3	1.1
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Apr	218.1	217.9	3.3
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Apr	164.4	164.3	7.3
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Apr	310.3	308.7	4.4

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Mar	960.5	2,479.1	-15.5
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Apr	9,051	30,591	-15.0

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Apr *	4 275	18 170	28.5
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Apr *	33.4	149.8	9.7
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Apr *	7.2	32.5	7.1
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Apr *	5.9	28.7	8.6

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Apr	9,152	35,256	26.4
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Apr	7,815	29,896	32.4

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Apr	19.3	74.0	19.9
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	May *	1 294	6 345	38.9

SALES

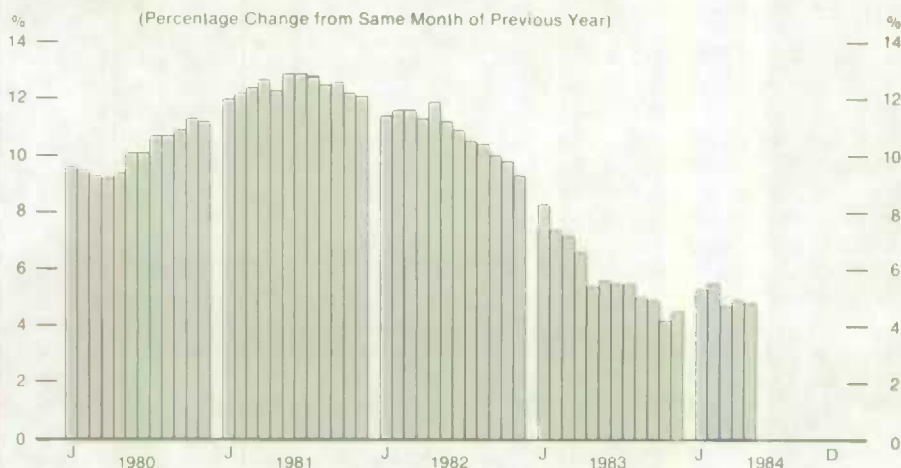
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Apr	842.7	2,958.1	6.0
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Apr *	18,366.2	72,492.2	18.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Apr	1,471.4	5,043.9	38.4
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Apr *	9,173.8	33,716.8	10.8

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* - new this week.

Consumer Price Index for Canada (CPI)

(1981=100)



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

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...Inventories/Shipments/Orders

and allied industries providing the major contribution.

Inventory owned by manufacturers at the end of April totalled \$31,844.3 million, seasonally adjusted, up 0.5% from the previous month's revised value of \$31,682.9 million. Total inventory held increased 0.5% to \$32,986.0 million from \$32,806.0 million in March; decreases of 1.8% in goods in process and 0.2% in finished products were posted; however, a 2.7% increase was recorded in raw materials.

The seasonally adjusted ratio of total inventory owned to shipments at the end of April was 1.72:1, down from 1.73:1 in March. The ratio of finished products inventory to shipments moved down to 0.61:1 in April from 0.62:1 in March.

For further information, order the April 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.

Energy, 1984

A tool for researchers and analysts, this reference document details most federal statistical sources related to energy subjects, describing statistical programs, surveys and administrative records, frameworks and models, publications and reports. Contact names with telephone numbers are included.

Copies of *Status of Federal Energy Statistics* (57-Z-501, \$5) are available from the Casual Sales Unit, Lobby, R.H. Coats Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6, or your nearest Statistics Canada regional reference centre.

Home Building Stays "Weak"

The Leading Indicator of Building Construction Activity in Canada (1971=100) fell again in February 1984 — dropping 1.5% from January to a level of 78.9. Weakness in residential construction intentions caused the drop. The continuing steady decline of the total index over the past several months appears to confirm the low level of building construction expenditures forecast for 1984.

The filtered residential construction index fell 3.4% from the preceding month to 79.0 in February. Since the termination of the Canadian Home Ownership Stimulation Plan (CHOSP), activity in the single-detached housing sector has been declining and there is no indication of any levelling-off. Meanwhile, the multiple dwelling sector seems to have bottomed. During February, the indexes for Ontario and the Atlantic provinces remained stable while declines occurred in the other regions.

The non-residential filtered index, after a drop in January, moved up slightly in February, rising 1.3% to 78.3. The industrial component index declined for the second month, moving down 0.9% to 73.9. However, the commercial construction index rose 0.5% to 96.4 and the governmental component advanced 2.5% to 56.5.

Current indexes appear in the March issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$3.85/\$38.50). For further information, contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-995-8213).

Energy Statistics

Canada posted a 1 391 million litre surplus on international transactions in crude petroleum in April 1984: Canadian exports of crude oil surged by 68.3% from a year earlier to 2 082 million litres while imports edged up 1.2% to 691 million litres.

Preliminary figures for April 1984 show that Canadian production levels of all the main energy forms showed increases over those recorded in 1983.

Domestic production of crude oil in the latest month climbed 22.0% over April 1983 to reach 7 187 million litres.

Canadian refineries produced 5 941 million litres of refined petroleum products in April 1984, up 9.3% from a year earlier. Sales of these products increased 0.5% over April 1983 to 5 688 million litres.

Natural gas production rose 9.2% in April 1984 from a year earlier to 7 196 million cubic metres. Exports of natural gas increased by 6.9% to 1 698 million cubic metres while sales in Canada reached 4 080 million cubic metres, up 3.2% from April 1983.

Production of coal in April 1984 totalled 4 275 kilotonnes, a jump of 24.6% from a year earlier.

Net generation of electricity also increased in April 1984, rising 6.9% from 1983 to 33 373 million kilowatts.

For further information, contact Richard Godin (613-996-3139), Energy Section, Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Canadian Exports of Crude Petroleum



Department Stores

Sales by major department store organizations in April 1984 totalled \$522.1 million, up 5.2% from April 1983. Junior department store organizations had sales of \$320.6 million, an increase of 15.0% from the same month a year earlier. Department store sales constituted 9.2% of all retail sales in Canada in April 1984, the same share held in April 1983.

Adjusted for seasonal variations and the number of trading days, total department store sales in April 1984 increased 3.1% to \$958.7 million from the revised March 1984 level of \$929.5 million.

The unadjusted selling value of inventories held by department stores in April 1984 was \$3,604.9 million, an increase of 13.8% over the same month a year earlier. Seasonally adjusted, department store stocks decreased 3.7% to a level of \$3,412.4 million in April 1984 from the preceding month's revised value of \$3,543.0 million.

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

Canadian Imports of Crude Petroleum



Retail Trade

Sales in April increased 9.1% over the same month last year to \$9,173.8 million. Sales gains over the year-earlier level were posted in April by every kind of business except combination stores (-3.0%) and jewellery stores (-0.1%), with the largest gains for motor vehicle dealers (+26.7%), garages (+21.0%) and household furniture stores (+21.0%). When the automotive group is excluded from the total, April retail sales registered a modest gain of 4.2%.

All provinces and territories showed higher sales when compared to the same month the previous year, gains ranging from 18.6% in Nova Scotia to 1.3% in Saskatchewan. At the metropolitan area level, sales were higher in all cities for which data are published: Montreal (+13.0%); Toronto (+9.1%); Winnipeg (+8.6%) and Vancouver (+1.4%).

Revised total sales for March 1984 were \$9,052.8 million, an increase of 9.4% over March 1983.

Cumulative sales for January-April 1984 reached \$33,716.8 million, up 10.8% over the same period last year.

Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, retail sales of \$9,690.7 million in April 1984 increased 4.1% over the preceding month's sales of \$9,308.2 million. Only furniture, TV, radio and appliance stores (-2.9%) recorded decreased sales; while the most notable gains were reported by used car dealers (+25.5%), family shoe stores (+11.4%) and variety stores (+9.4%).

At the provincial level, sales increased in April in every province, with advances ranging from 5.6% in Quebec to 2.2% in Prince Edward Island. Sales at the metropolitan area level were higher in Montreal (+6.3%), Winnipeg (+5.0%), Vancouver (+2.6%) and Toronto (+2.2%).

For further information, order the April 1984 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, \$3.85/\$38.50).

Petroleum Products/Gas

Preliminary figures show that in April 1984, sales of refined petroleum products in Canada increased by 0.5% from a year earlier, while sales of natural gas were up by 3.2%. Cumulative figures for the first four months of 1984 show sales of petroleum products rose 2.2% from the January-April 1983 level, while sales of natural gas climbed by 11.1%.

Sales of petroleum products by Canadian refiners and major distributors during April 1984 amounted to 5 687 600 cubic metres. For the January-April 1984 period, sales of refined petroleum products amounted to 25 415 698 cubic metres.

Sales of natural gas by main distributors in April 1984 amounted to 4 079 680 thousand cubic metres. For January-April 1984, sales of natural gas amounted to 20 551 886 thousand cubic metres.

For further information, order the April 1984 issues of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, \$3.85/\$38.50) and *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$2.75/\$27.50).

Railway Carloadings

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada in April 1984 totalled 19.8 million tonnes, an increase of 21.1% from a year earlier. The carriers received an additional 1.2 million tonnes from the United States, up 14.4% from April 1983.

Commodities registering notable changes in volumes loaded in the latest month were: sulphur (+66.0%); coal (+63.6%); iron ore and concentrates (+20.1%) and phosphate rock (+383.9%).

Total loadings in Canada during January-April 1984 showed an increase of 20.3% from the 1983 period, while receipts from U.S. connections rose by 11.7%.

For further information, order the April 1984 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, \$1.60/\$16). For seasonally adjusted revenue freight loadings, contact the Rail Unit (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada.

Coal: Exports/Imports

Coal production increased by 34% to 4 676 kilotonnes in March 1984 from 3 490 KT a year earlier. Exports of coal climbed 89.2% to 2 078 KT from 1 098 KT, while landed imports were up to 521 KT from 106 KT in March 1983.

In the first three months of 1984, exports of coal jumped 63% to 5 674 KT from 3 481 KT and landed imports were up 83.1% to 542 KT from 296 KT.

For further information, order the March 1984 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.

Telephone Systems

Canada's 13 major telephone systems reported revenues of \$740.2 million in April 1984, up 11.5% from a year earlier. Operating expenses rose 6.8% over the 12-month period to \$495.2 million. Net operating revenue at \$244.9 million showed an advance of 22.2% over April 1983.

For further information, order the April 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.

Urban Transit

Canada's urban transit systems' April operating revenues amounted to \$65.7 million.

For further information, order the April 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.

Railway Transport, 1982

CN and CP Rail transported 163 464 031 tonnes of revenue freight in 1982, a drop of 11.8% from 1981. Total railway revenues were \$4,045.9 million, down 6.1%.

To obtain a microfiche copy or for further information, contact R. Schipizky (613-995-1976), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.



Pension Plans

Pension Plans in Canada 1982 shows that the number of pension plans provided by employers in Canada increased 4.4% to 15,232 in 1982 from 14,586 in 1980. Although 1,500 plans were terminated during the 1980-82 period, more than 2,000 new plans were registered. Over that two-year period, the total number of plan participants increased 4.1% to 4,658,000.

Of the nearly 4.7 million workers covered by pension plans in Canada in 1982, almost two million were in the public sector. According to the report, the provisions of the public sector plans are generally superior to those for private sector workers. For 95% of public sector plan members, pensions are based on earnings close to retirement, usually the period of the employee's highest earnings. This contrasts to the private sector, where just 26% of members accrue pensions based on such high earnings, for almost 60%, the pension is based on the employee's average earnings over the entire period of employment or the pension is a fixed benefit disregarding level of earnings.

Public sector plans also more frequently provide for automatic indexing of benefits. Nearly two-thirds of public sector members have provisions for automatic indexing whereas in the private sector only 5% of the members have automatic indexing of pensions.

Copies of *Pension Plans in Canada 1982* (74-401; Canada: \$7.75; Other Countries: \$9.30) are available from Publication Sales and Services, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6, or any of the Bureau's regional reference centres.

For further information, contact Hubert Frenken (613-995-7165), Labour Division, or Pat Parkhill (613-993-7644), Federal and Media Relations Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.



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Imports by Countries, January-March 1984	65-006	\$8.35/\$33.40	\$10/\$40
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Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, April 1984	25-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
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Consumer Price Index, May 1984	62-001	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
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Urban Transit, April 1984	53-003	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
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Water Transport, Vol. 14, No. 2, Water Transport, 1982			

These publications can be purchased by writing to Publication Sales and Services, Room 1710, Main Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6. Please enclose cheque or money order payable to the Receiver General for Canada and provide full information on publications required (number, title, issue).

Publications can also be ordered through Statistics Canada's offices in St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Sturgeon Falls, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver, or from bookstore agents or other booksellers.