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Weekly Bulletin

June 29, 1984

Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment insurance benefits paid out to claimants in April 1984 totalled \$889 million, down 6% from March and 5% less than the \$937 million paid out in April 1983. Benefits for the first four months of 1984 amounted to \$3.85 billion, down 7% from the same period in 1983; the number of weeks of benefit declined by 12% in the 1984 period while the average weekly benefit increased 4% to \$162.07.

Claimants drawing unemployment insurance benefits for the week ended April 21 numbered 1,307,000, down 3% from March and 10% fewer than the April 1983 count of 1,458,000 beneficiaries.

Claims received from persons seeking unemployment insurance benefits in April totalled 227,000, down by about 8% from both the previous month and the same month a year earlier. Claims for the first four months of 1984 numbered 1.12 million, 3% fewer than in the January-April 1983 period.

For further information, order the April-June 1984 issue of *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (73-001, \$6.65/\$26.60), or contact H. Stiebert (613-995-7165 extension 238), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Gross National Product

Gross National Product at market prices rose 2.1% in the first quarter of 1984 to a level of \$411.6 billion, seasonally adjusted at annual rates. After allowing for a 1.3% increase in overall prices, real GNP increased 0.8%, down slightly from the 1.2% increase of the fourth quarter of 1983. Real GNP is now about 1.0% above the level recorded at the peak of economic activity in the second quarter of 1981.

The major source of growth in the quarter was merchandise exports, up 8.9% in volume terms. This growth reflected to a large degree the continuing expansion of the U.S. economy and marks the second consecutive quarter that a strong U.S. economy has had a major influence on Canadian growth through export demand. The impact of the auto industry on the economy was pervasive as motor vehicle production and sales played dominant roles in exports, imports, consumer spending and inventory

(continued on next page)

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Apr.*	398.79	Previous Month	399.78	% Change From Year Ago	3.8
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	Previous Month	3,398.4	% Change From Year Ago	13.8
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Apr.	32,343.3		32,161.5		4.9

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Apr.	18,654.0	Previous Month	19,830.0	% Change From Year Ago	15.8
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Apr.	21,546.4		21,258.6		31.9

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	May	121.7	Previous Month	121.5	% Change From Year Ago	4.8
New House Price Index (1981=100)	Apr.	95.5		95.3		1.1
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	May*	218.0		218.4		3.2
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	May*	164.0		164.8		6.6
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	May*	310.6		310.3		4.1

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Mar.	960.5	Year-to-date	2,479.1	% Change From Year Ago	-15.5
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Apr.	9,051		30,591		-15.0

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Apr.	4,275	Previous Month	18,170	% Change From Year Ago	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	Previous Month	35,256	% Change From Year Ago	26.4
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Apr.	7,815		29,896		32.4

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	May*	22.5	Previous Month	96.5	% Change From Year Ago	20.7
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	May	1,294		6,345		38.9

SALES

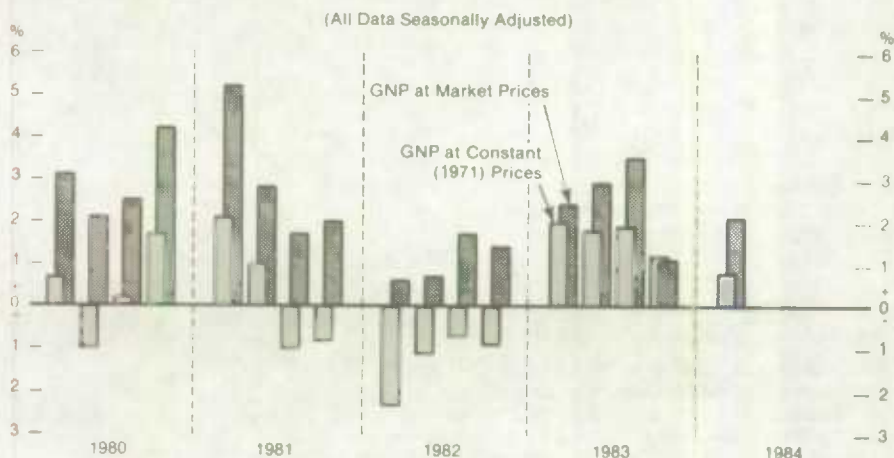
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	842.7	Previous Month	2,958.1	% Change From Year Ago	6.0
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Apr.	18,366.2		72,492.2		18.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	1,471.4		5,043.9		38.4
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	9,173.8		33,716.8		10.8

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* - new this week.

Canada's Gross National Product (GNP)

Quarter-to-Quarter Change



Canada

...Gross National Product

accumulation and were of major importance in profit growth of non-financial corporations. Final domestic demand advanced 0.6% with increases in all of the major components.

Highlights of the first quarter:

- The deficit on goods and services rose to \$0.8 billion from \$0.6 billion, seasonally adjusted at annual rates. The merchandise trade balance increased by \$0.6 billion to \$17.7 billion at annual rates but the non-merchandise deficit increased by a slightly greater amount.

- Real expenditures on business investment in plant and equipment increased 1.3% in the quarter. The machinery and equipment component advanced 1.9%, a continuation of the upturn which had commenced in mid-1983. The increase in non-residential construction was more moderate, and included growth in both structures and engineering projects.

- Real residential construction was virtually unchanged following the sharp decline of the fourth quarter of 1983. The volume of spending on new dwelling construction fell further, as housing starts have remained fairly weak following the large reduction in mid-1983. This lower spending on construction was offset by the growth in real estate commissions generated in an active market for resale homes during the quarter.

- Business inventory accumulation moderated to about two-thirds the rate of the fourth quarter of 1983. In contrast to the widespread nature of the fourth quarter accumulation, automotive products held by retailers predominated in the first quarter. There was also some rebuilding of petroleum inventories, while stocks of wood and paper were reduced due to the interruption of production caused by labour disputes in British Columbia.

- The volume of personal expenditure rose 0.5% in the first quarter, down from the 0.9% increase in the previous quarter. Strong growth in demand for durable goods was almost entirely autos and auto related, as it was in the fourth quarter of 1983.

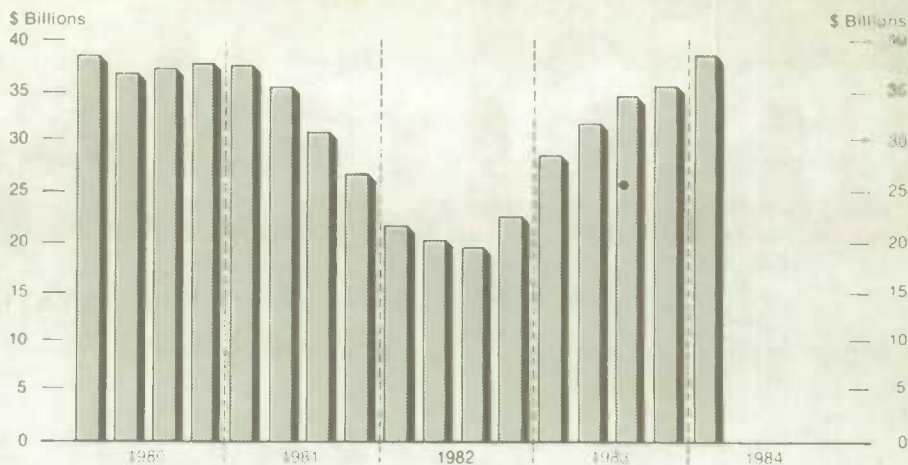
- Labour income growth slowed to a 0.8% increase in the first quarter, down from 1.0% in the fourth quarter of 1983, reflecting a slower pace of employment growth. A rise in personal expenditure in excess of income growth reduced the personal saving rate to 11.7% from the previous quarter's 12.6%.

- Corporate profits rose 8.0% compared to 2.6% in the fourth quarter. Profit growth of financial corporations was strong while a moderate rate of increase prevailed for non-financial corporations for the second consecutive quarter. Within these corporations, the main impetus to profit growth was the automobile industry.

For further information, order the first quarter 1984 issue of *National Income and Expenditure Accounts* (13-001, \$6.65/\$26.60), or contact the Gross National Product Division (613-995-0601), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Corporation Profits (Before Taxes)

(Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates)



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

Employment/Earnings

Preliminary estimates show employment at Canada industrial aggregate level increased by 2.2% from March to April 1984. All industries registered higher employment except forestry. All provinces and territories contributed to the overall increase except the Northwest Territories.

Average weekly earnings at the Canada industrial level decreased by 0.2% to \$398.79 in April from \$399.78 in March. Lower weekly earnings were recorded in mining, manufacturing, construction and trade while the remaining industries showed increases. All provinces and territories posted lower earnings except Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and British Columbia which showed increases.

Detailed information for March and April will be published in the April 1984 issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, \$5.55/\$55.50), or may be obtained by calling the Labour Division (613-995-7165).

Government Employees

Employees of the federal government (including members of the Canadian Armed Forces) and government enterprises numbered 585,367 as of March 1984, an overall increase of 3,787 (0.7%) from March 1983. General government employees increased by 5,867 (1.3%), while those in government enterprises declined by 2,080 (-2.1%).

The major portion of the increase in general government employment in the latest period was due to higher levels in National Defence and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police along with increased term employment in the Canada Post Corporation; these increases were partly offset by decreases in a number of departments, principally Employment and Immigration and Veterans Affairs. The decline in government enterprise employment was due largely to layoffs over the year by Petro-Canada, Canadair Limited, Air Canada and de Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited.

Gross payrolls (including overtime and retroactive payments) for January-March 1984 totalled \$3,984.5 million, an increase of \$305.0 million (8.3%) over the corresponding quarter in 1983.

The January-March 1984 issue of the publication *Federal Government Employment* (72-004, \$5.55/\$22.20) will be released at a later date. Questions pertaining to the data should be directed to T. Moore or M. Fathy (613-995-8201), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Oil Pipeline Transport

Net receipts of crude oil, condensates, pentanes plus, liquefied petroleum gases and petroleum products through Canadian oil pipelines during April 1984 climbed 18.4% to 11 513 269 cubic metres from 9 727 922 cubic metres a year earlier.

For further information, order the April 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.

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Foreign Trade/Automotive

Canada posted a \$1,085 million surplus in trade in automotive products with the United States in the first quarter of 1984, up \$265 million from the \$820 million surplus recorded in the first quarter of 1983. Canada's surplus on trade in cars increased by \$530 million and that on trucks and other motor vehicles rose by \$225 million in the latest quarter; these gains were partly offset by a \$475 million widening of the deficit on trade in parts.

The increased surplus on trade in automotive products during January-March 1984 reflected a general expansion of trade in this area: exports of automotive products rose 51.6% or \$2,360 million from the 1983 level to \$6,935 million and imports were up 55.8% or \$2,095 million to \$5,850 million. All categories of exports showed similar growth, with automotive parts — up 61.4% or \$870 million — showing the sharpest percentage increase. In the import categories, passenger cars were up 45.2%, trucks and other motor vehicles rose 119.1%, automotive parts increased 53.6% and tires and tubes were up 127.3%.

Trade with Overseas Countries

Canada's deficit on trade in automotive products with overseas countries almost doubled, rising to \$665 million in the first quarter of 1984 from \$345 million in the January-March 1983 period.

The \$320 million rise in the deficit in the latest period reflected a 65.3% rise in imports compared to an 8.9% rise in exports.

For further information, contact Gordon Blaney (613-995-6305), Trade Information Unit, or François Bordé (613-995-6115).

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in April 1984 continued to increase sharply, advancing 13.5% over the same period last year.

In April 1984, all trade groups recorded sales increases from a year earlier except household furniture and furnishings (-0.6%). The most notable gains were reported by wholesalers of metal and metal products (+35.3%), motor vehicles and accessories (+25.7%), machinery and equipment, n.e.s. (+22.0%), apparel and dry goods (+17.7%) and paper and paper products (+16.0%). All provinces posted sales increases from a year earlier.

Cumulative sales by wholesale merchants for the first four months of 1984 were up 15.5% over the January-April 1983 period.

Inventories

Wholesale merchants' inventories in April 1984 increased by 4.2% from the corresponding period in 1983.

The ratio of inventories to sales at the end of April 1984 was 1.76:1, down from 1.86:1 a year earlier.

For further information, order the April 1984 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$1.60/\$16), or contact B. Marois (613-996-9307), Wholesale Trade Section.

Lawyer's Guide to the CPI

The legal profession in Canada is increasingly compelled to deal with the problem of inflation and its impact on dollar values in long-term legal agreements such as child support agreements and contracts for services.

To assist lawyers using Consumer Price Index data for this purpose, Statistics Canada is releasing *A Lawyer's Guide to the Consumer Price Index*. The booklet explains key concepts of the CPI, demonstrates how to calculate rates of price change from index data and outlines important considerations for lawyers using CPI data to index dollar values in long-term agreements.

Copies of this publication are available free of charge from Statistics Canada's regional offices or from the Central Inquiries Service, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Telecommunications Carriers

Telelobe Canada and CNCP Telecommunications reported revenues totalling \$136.7 million for the first quarter of 1984, up 14.0% from January-March 1983. Operating expenses climbed 32.5% over the 12 months to \$101.1 million. Net operating revenue at \$35.6 million was down from \$43.6 million in the first quarter of 1983.

For further information, order the *Communications Service Bulletin, Telecommunications Statistics, First Quarter 1984* (56-001, \$1.60/\$16), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Raw Materials Price Index

The Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100) decreased 0.2% in May 1984 to a preliminary 218.0 from the revised April level of 218.4. The main contributions to the May decline came from the component indexes for vegetable products (-1.9%) and non-ferrous metals (-1.8%).

Over the 12-month period between May 1983 and May 1984, the Raw Materials Price Index increased 3.2%, down slightly from the 3.4% annual rise registered in April. The Raw Materials Price Index excluding coal, crude oil, and natural gas posted its first monthly decline (-0.5%) in six months and now stands 6.6% above the May 1983 level.

The vegetable products component index declined 1.9% in May, but remained 17.4% higher than its level of a year earlier. The decrease for the month was chiefly caused by a 20.6% plunge in prices of fresh vegetables. Raw sugar prices, which fell 6.6%, also contributed to the downward movement. The index decline for the month was limited by the partly offsetting impact of price increases for oilseeds (+13.6%), grains (+1.2%), and fresh fruit (+6.2%).

The non-ferrous metals index declined 1.8% in May and was up only 1.0% from the year-earlier level. Copper prices dropped 7.0% and were down 17.7% from the level of 12 months earlier.

Cattle and calf prices turned down in May (-0.6%) after seven consecutive months of increases. This factor helped limit the animal and animal products index increase to 0.2% in May.

For further information, order the May 1984 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$3.85/\$38.50), or contact the Information Unit (613-995-5738), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Labour Force Participation of Wives

The unprecedented and largely unanticipated economic developments of the 1970s and early 1980s worked their way down to the family level, where they were manifested in higher mortgage and consumer loan rates, increased home heating costs, declining purchasing power of pensions, higher transportation costs, growing property taxes and expanding shelter costs in general.

"Canadian Husband-Wife Families: Labour Force Participation and Income Trends 1971-1981", an article in the May issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, \$3.85/\$38.50), points out that at least partly in response to these pressures, the labour force participation of wives, and therefore the share of total family income provided by wives rose to 28.1% in 1981 from 25.2% in 1971. Although the wives' share is still proportionately small, their contributions make a considerable difference in family income levels. Throughout the 1970s, increases in husbands' income, after adjustments for inflation, gradually declined until 1979-1981, when a decrease in average real income occurred. Without the increasing contribution of wives, the family income position would have deteriorated considerably.

One of the most striking phenomena noted in the paper is the rapid decline of the husband's role as the single source of family income. In 1971, over one-third (34.7%) of all husband-wife families depended exclusively on the husband's income. By 1981, this proportion had fallen to about one-sixth (17.5%). The strains generated by shifts in family power and the effect of changing family role definitions brought about by recent economic change have yet to be fully examined.

For further information, contact Dr. E. Pryor (613-995-4382), Director-General, Census and Household Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.



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Cereals and Oilseeds Review, April 1984	22-007	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Fruit and Vegetable Production, June 1984	22-003	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, April 1984	62-003	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
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Cheques Cashed, April 1984	61-001	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
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Current Economic Analysis, April 1984	13-004E	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
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Preliminary Unemployment Insurance Statistics, February 1984	73-001	(N/C)	(N/C)
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Gas Utilities, February 1984	55-002	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33
Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, March 1984	31-001	\$3.85/\$38.50	\$4.60/\$46
Oils and Fats, April 1984	32-006	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
Particleboard, Waferboard and Hardboard, April 1984	36-003	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
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Production, Sales and Stocks of Major Appliances, April 1984	43-010	\$1.60/\$16	\$1.90/\$19
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MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES			
Merchandising Inventories, March 1984	63-014	\$2.75/\$27.50	\$3.30/\$33

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