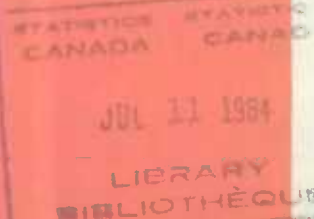


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Weekly Bulletin



July 13, 1984

New Housing Price Index

The New Housing Price Index (1981=100) showed no overall movement between April 1984 and May 1984, remaining at the April level of 95.5. This index of housing contractors' selling prices now stands 1.3% higher than the year-earlier level of 94.3. In May, the estimated House Only Index remained at 98.0, while the lower weighted estimated Land Only Index increased 0.2% to 91.2.

Between April and May 1984, the largest increase was recorded for St. John's (0.9%). Increases were also registered for Saskatoon (0.8%), Kitchener (0.7%), Ottawa-Hull (0.5%), Quebec (0.3%), Toronto (0.3%), Winnipeg (0.3%), Calgary (0.2%) and Montreal (0.1%). Significant decreases were recorded for Edmonton (-2.0%) and Regina (-1.7%). Other decreases were recorded for Windsor (-0.5%) and Victoria (-0.4%).

Between May 1983 and May 1984, the largest year-over-year increase was recorded for Saint-John-Moncton (11.7%), followed by Ottawa-Hull (11.5%), Montreal (7.8%), Windsor (6.6%), London (5.7%) and Hamilton (5.2%). Smaller year-over-year increases ranging from 4.9% to 1.0% were recorded for Winnipeg, Quebec, Thunder Bay, Kitchener, St. Catharines-Niagara, St. John's, Regina, Vancouver and Toronto. The largest decrease was registered for Calgary (-5.7%), followed by Edmonton (-4.7%), Victoria (-4.0%) and Saskatoon (-1.7%).

Residential Construction

The Residential Building Construction Input Price Index (1971=100) for Canada declined to a level of 293.3 in May, down 0.5% from its April level of 294.7. The materials index declined 1.0% during the month due primarily to price decreases for lumber, plywood and ready-mix concrete that more than offset price increases for wooden windows and mineral wool.

The labour component rose to a level of 328.4 in May, up 0.3% from its April level of 327.3.

Comparing May 1984 with May 1983, the Canada total index rose 1.1% (0.8% for materials and 1.6% for labour).

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

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Apr.	398.79	399.78	3.8
Labour Income (\$ million)	Apr.*	18,693.0	18,447.5	5.9
Persons with Jobs (million)	June*	11.32	11.01	2.2
Unemployed	June*	1,362,000	1,460,000	-6.6

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)	May*	95.5	95.5	1.3
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)	Apr.	1,331.0	4,004.5	-12.8
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)	May*	10,311	45,589	27.3
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	May*	8,555	38,442	33.9

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	May	22.5	96.5	20.7
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	June*	1,243	7,581	27.0

SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	May*	9,778	3,885.9	7.0
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Apr.	18,366.2	72,492.2	18.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	May*	1,683.2	6,727.1	39.2
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.

Residential Construction Expenditures

Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates

\$ Billions

20 —

18 —

16 —

14 —

12 —

10 —

8 —

6 —

4 —

2 —

0 —

0

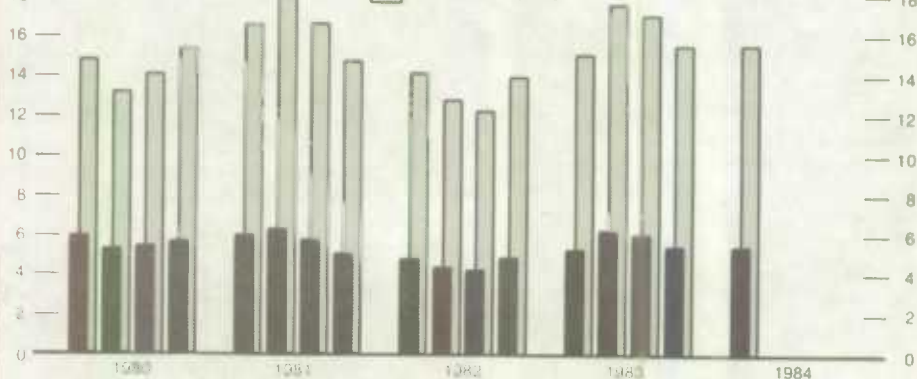
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■ In Constant (1971) Dollars
□ In Current Dollars



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

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Weekly Bulletin

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Securities: Non-residents

Foreign investment in outstanding Canadian securities increased by \$137 million in May 1984, compared with an increase of \$285 million in April. Net foreign purchases of outstanding Canadian bonds totalled \$167 million in the current month, bringing to nearly \$1 billion the net inflow of foreign capital in the first five months of 1984. This represented a four-fold increase over the same period of 1983. Foreign investment in Canadian bonds was widespread geographically and included net purchases by residents of Japan, Europe and the Middle East. The net inflow from bond trading in May was partly offset by a net disinvestment by non-residents in Canadian equities leading to a net outflow of \$30 million.

Following an unusual net disinvestment in April, residents increased their holdings of outstanding foreign securities by \$290 million in May, the bulk of which represented purchases of United States government bonds.

For further information, order the May 1984 issue of *Security Transactions with Non-residents* (67-002, \$2.65/\$26.50).

Help-wanted Index

The Canada seasonally-adjusted Help-wanted Index (1981=100) rose to 64 in June from 57 in May. Regionally, indexes advanced in the Atlantic provinces (from 124 to 179), in Quebec (from 65 to 72) and in Ontario (from 59 to 70). Declines were recorded in the Prairie provinces (from 36 to 34) and in British Columbia (from 40 to 30). (The Canada and Atlantic statistics were affected somewhat by a large government advertisement placed in a St. John's newspaper).

The short-term trend, a "smoothing" of the irregular fluctuations in the seasonally-adjusted data, showed no movement in June.

Inquiries about the index should be directed to Horst Stiebert (613-990-9900, Ext. 238), Labour Division, Statistics Canada.

Farm Cash Receipts

Farm cash receipts for the period January-May 1984 are currently estimated at \$8,017.6 million, up 3.9% from the revised 1983 January-May estimate of \$7,713.7 million.

Receipts from the sale of field crops are estimated at \$3,865.5, 2.5% higher than last year's estimate of \$3,770.0 million. Oats, flaxseed, rye, rapeseed, potatoes and corn were up while receipts for wheat, barley and Canadian Wheat Board payments were down.

Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products were estimated at \$3,887.1 million, up 4.1% from the revised 1983 level of \$3,735.7 million.

Other receipts were up 27.4% at \$265.0 million from the previous year's revised total of \$208.0 million.

Estimated farm cash receipts measure the gross cash returns to farmers from the sale of all agricultural products.

For further information, order the January-May 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. (Because of the intercensal revision taking place at this time, these data are not released on CANSIM.)

Estimates of Labour Income

Labour income in April 1984 was estimated at \$18,693.0 million, an increase of \$1,034.2 million (5.9%) from April 1983. Adjusted for seasonal variation, wages and salaries increased by \$169.6 million between March 1984 and April 1984 to \$17,095.7 million.

Users should note that the estimates of labour income have been revised to January 1981. In addition, several methods of seasonal adjustment have been applied to the 1983 and 1984 estimates. The revised data with explanatory notes will be published in the January-March issue of *Estimates of Labour Income* (72-005, \$5.55/\$22.20).

For further information, contact G. Gau-thier (613-995-7165), Labour Income Section, Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Restaurants/Caterers/Taverns

Preliminary restaurant, catering and tavern receipts for May 1984 were \$925.3 million, up 7.0% from May 1983. Revised total receipts for April 1984 were \$850.6 million, an increase of 1.0%.

For further information on provincial totals by kind of business and on chains versus independents, order *Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns* (63-011, \$1.60/\$16), or contact R. Bennett (613-996-9302), Services Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

New Motor Vehicle Sales

Retail sales of all new motor vehicles sold in Canada increased 26.8% in May 1984 over the same month last year to 138,643 units, the highest level since June 1979. Sales of North American manufactured passenger cars and commercial vehicles rose 28.3% and 66.7% respectively over the same month a year earlier with 82,944 and 27,489 units sold. Sales of passenger cars manufactured overseas were 7.7% higher than in May 1983, with 24,983 units sold, and sales of commercial vehicles made overseas dropped 35.7% to 3,227 units.

The share of the Canadian passenger car market held by North American manufacturers in May 1984 (based on unit sales) was 76.8%, up from the 73.6% recorded in May 1983. Japanese manufacturers registered a market share of 16.2% (compared to 21.5% in May 1983), and manufacturers from other countries held 7.0% of the automotive market (compared to 4.9% in May 1983).

Total dollar value of all new motor vehicles sold in May 1984 increased 41.8% from a year earlier, to \$1,683.2 million. North American passenger cars sold were valued at \$930.7 million (up 38.0% over the same month the previous year) and sales of commercial vehicles built in North America totalled \$406.7 million (up 79.1%). Sales of overseas passenger cars rose 30.6% to \$311.7 million and those of commercial vehicles were 27.3% lower at \$34.1 million.

In terms of units, all provinces — with the exception of Saskatchewan's decrease of 0.7% — reported higher sales in May 1984 over May 1983, ranging from +7.2% in Manitoba to +38.8% in Newfoundland.

Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, unit sales of passenger cars built in North America (63,068 units) increased 4.4% in May 1984 from April 1984. Seasonally adjusted sales of passenger cars built overseas (18,538 units) increased 7.9% from the previous month, and total commercial vehicles (25,007 units) (domestic and overseas manufactured vehicles) were 3.7% higher than the preceding month.

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

Steel Ingots

Preliminary data on steel ingots production for June 1984: 1 242 656 tonnes, an increase of 11.9% compared to 1 110 266 tonnes the previous year.

For further information, order the June 1984 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$1.60/\$16), or contact G.W. Barrett (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries.

Numbers Change for Statistics Canada Inquiries/Sales

As of today, the telephone number for the Statistics Canada Inquiries Service will change to 613-990-8116 from 613-992-4734, and that for the Sales Unit will change to 613-990-8114 from 613-992-3151.

Statement of Trade

On a seasonally adjusted balance-of-payments basis, Canada's total exports increased 6.8% or \$610 million to \$9.5 billion in May 1984; this continued a pattern of wide fluctuations, following a \$400 million decrease in April and a \$805 million increase in March after six months of continuous increases up to January 1984 (an overall gain of \$1.7 billion). Imports increased 9.5% or \$680 million to \$7.9 billion in May, following a \$665 million decrease in April and an overall increase of \$2.3 billion over the 11 months up to March 1984. As a result, the merchandise trade surplus retracted by \$70 million to \$1.6 billion in May, after increases of \$260 million in April and \$270 million in March and a drop of \$690 million in February.

For the first five months of 1984, Canada registered a merchandise trade surplus of \$7.9 billion, \$100 million higher than in the corresponding period last year. Total exports increased 26% or \$9.4 billion and imports rose 33% or \$9.3 billion.

Canadian trade with the United States was even stronger than in the same period in 1983: exports increased \$8.8 billion during January-May 1984, while imports increased \$6.8 billion. As a result, the merchandise trade surplus with the United States rose by \$2.0 billion. However, this gain was partly counterbalanced by a \$1.0 billion reduction in the merchandise trade surplus with "other countries" as a result of an equivalent increase in imports from this sector.

Growth in the short term trend for total exports, which accelerated with increases moving up from 1.0% in July 1983 to 3.1% in November 1983, slowed to an increase of 1.9% in March 1984. The imports short term trend, which had recovered sooner and more strongly than total exports with gains moving up from 1.1% in May to 3.7% in August 1983, also slowed with increases decelerating from 3.5% in September 1983 to 2.0% in March 1984. As a result, the trend for the merchandise trade surplus, after an April/May 1983 peak at \$1.64 billion, retracted by \$300 million up to September, accelerated slightly up to December and then continued to increase but at a slower pace with gains down from \$50 million in January to \$15 million in March 1984, reaching a monthly level of \$1.55 billion.

The main contributors to the overall \$610 million increase in total exports in May 1984 were iron ores, concentrates and scrap, wheat, newsprint and woodpulp. As well, combined exports of all end products except industrial machinery and passenger automobiles provided a total \$180 million increase. There were no significant exports decreases in May.

For further information, order the May 1984 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, \$2.30/\$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 Force Information

Canada's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 11.2% in June 1984, down from 11.7% in May. The participation rate declined to 64.6% from 64.7% in the preceding month, while the employment/population ratio increased to 57.4% from 57.2%.

Employment for the week ending June 16 was estimated at 10,975,000 persons, an increase of 49,000 over the level recorded in May. Employment rose by 53,000 for those in the 25 years of age and over category (by 38,000 for males and 15,000 for females). Employment increased by 26,000 in manufacturing and by 17,000 in finance, insurance and real estate but declined by 9,000 in agriculture. On a provincial basis, employment increased by 13,000 in Alberta, by 4,000 in Newfoundland and also posted marginal increases in all the remaining provinces except Quebec and Manitoba.

Unemployment totalled 1,379,000 in June, a drop of 63,000 from the level in May. Unemployment declined by 31,000 for males aged 15 to 24, by 20,000 for females in this age group and by 11,000 for males 25 years of age and over. By province, unemployment decreased by 38,000 in Ontario, by 21,000 in Quebec and by 4,000 in Newfoundland.

Seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the provinces in June were as follows, with May rates in brackets: Newfoundland, 19.3% (21.1%); Prince Edward Island, 12.8% (14.2%); Nova Scotia, 12.6% (12.2%); New Brunswick, 15.1% (14.9%); Quebec, 12.6% (13.2%); Ontario, 8.6% (9.3%); Manitoba, 8.0% (7.8%); Saskatchewan, 8.0% (8.0%); Alberta, 11.8% (12.0%) and British Columbia, 15.7% (15.6%).

Unadjusted, the level of employment for Canada in June 1984 was 11,316,000, an increase of 243,000 (+2.2%) from a year earlier. Unemployment decreased by 100,000 (-6.8%) over the 12-month period, moving down to 1,362,000 from 1,462,000. The unemployment rate was 10.7% in the latest month, down from 11.7% in June 1983, while the participation rate remained unchanged at 66.3% and the employment/population ratio increased to 59.1% from 58.6% in the preceding year.

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

Farm Wages

Average hourly farm wages in Canada (without board, lodging, or house provided) at May 15, 1984 were an estimated \$5.14, up 4% from \$4.94 at May 15, 1983. The highest average wage was paid in Saskatchewan (\$6.00 per hour), while the lowest was paid in Quebec (\$4.53).

Average daily wages (without board) were estimated at \$42.60, and monthly wages (without board) at \$950.00.

For further information on farm wage rates, order *Farm Wages in Canada* (21-002, \$2.75/\$11), or contact Elizabeth Leckie (613-995-4895), Agriculture Statistics Division.

International Travel

Preliminary statistics for May 1984 show that 2.7 million United States residents entered Canada, down 0.5% from a year earlier. Visitors from other countries increased by 4.7% to 165,000. In total, non-resident entries numbered 2.9 million in May 1984, 0.2% below the same month last year. Canadian residents re-entering this country after visits to the U.S. numbered 3.1 million, down 8.6% from May 1983, while residents returning from other countries increased by 6.7% to 142,000. During the month, total Canadian residents returning to this country numbered 3.2 million, down 8.0% from May 1983.

For the first five months of 1984, the international flows were as follows: 9.3 million U.S. residents entered Canada, down 1.7% from January-May 1983; visitors from other countries increased by 7.5% to 458,000; Canadians returning from the U.S. increased by 0.5% to 14.4 million and resident re-entries from other countries numbered 900,000, up 17.2% from 1983.

In May 1984, long-term (tourist) entries from the United States (which include overnight or longer auto and bus traffic and all entries by boat, plane and train) increased by 1.0% to 924,000. Residents from other countries (excluding those arriving by land via the U.S. and intending to stay less than 24 hours) numbered 151,000, up 5.7%.

On a year-to-date basis, tourist entries from the U.S. increased by 3.2% to 2.6 million. Tourists from other countries numbered 420,000, up 7.4% from last year. Canadian tourist re-entries from the U.S. numbered 4.3 million in the January-May 1984 period, up 1.5%, and residents returning from countries other than the U.S. increased by 17.2% to 900,000.

For further information, order the May 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.

Department Stores

Department stores had sales totalling \$927.8 million in May 1984, an increase of 10.2% from a year earlier. Cumulative sales for January-May 1984 reached \$3,885.9 million, up 7.0% from the year-earlier period.

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

- Ontario, \$835.0 million (+11.9%)
- Quebec, \$181.9 million (+13.5%)
- British Columbia, \$144.0 million (+3.6%)
- Alberta, \$124.3 million (+5.5%)
- Atlantic provinces, \$65.3 million (+12.7%)
- Manitoba, \$48.3 million (+12.8%)
- Saskatchewan, \$29.0 million (+16.4%).

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



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Construction Price Statistics, April 1984	62-007	\$3.30/\$33	\$3.95/\$39.50
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