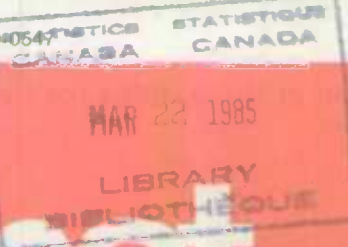


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Weekly Bulletin

March 22, 1985

Women in Canada: A Statistical Report

Women in Canada: A Statistical Report documents in statistical terms how the status of women has evolved over the past decade and a half. For example, the report points out that the participation rate of married women in the labour force increased by an impressive 25% from 1975 to 1983. By 1983, 53% of married women held jobs outside their homes.

Women have also made advances in management categories within the labour force. In 1975, only 19% of managerial positions were held by women. By 1983, the proportion of women in these positions had increased to 30%. However, 77% of women in the labour force continue to be employed in only five occupational groups: clerical, service, sales, medicine and health, and the teaching profession. One in three Canadian women occupied a clerical position in 1983, while only one man in 16 was employed in this occupational group.

(continued page 2, col. 1)

Construction Activity

The leading indicator of construction activity in Canada (1971=100) slid in November, dropping 1.3% from October to a level of 91.9. The increase of intentions recorded in the non-residential sector was not strong enough to offset the downward pressure exerted on the residential sector.

The filtered index of residential construction in November showed a decrease of 3.5% from October, marking the lowest level of intentions since April 1984. The downward movement of construction intentions affected both single and multi-family dwelling sectors.

The leading indicator of non-residential construction activity increased 1.6% in November to 96.4. The industrial sector mainly contributed to the rise of the non-residential index with an 8.6% jump; this sector has continued an upward trend for more than a year. Meanwhile, weak changes were recorded by the commercial (+0.7%) and governmental (-0.3%) indexes. Compared with the same month one year earlier, the situation in the non-residential sector improved distinctly (+21.0%).

Order the December 1984 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$3.85/\$38.50), or contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-990-9689), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

			Previous Month	% Change From Year Ago
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Dec	408.55	410.80	3.2
Labour Income (\$ million)	Dec	19,716.7	19,919.7	6.2
Persons with Jobs (million)	Feb	10.77	10.68	2.1
Unemployed	Feb	1,455,000	1,483,000	-1.4

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Dec.	3,142.7	3,950.5	-2.5
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Dec.	33,195.8	32,770.3	8.3

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Dec.	17,830.2	19,827.3	8.7
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Dec.	22,110.3	22,210.4	10.0

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1981=100)	Feb.*	125.4	124.6	0.6
New House Price Index (1981=100)	Dec.	94.7	94.5	-0.1
Raw Materials Price Index (1977=100)	Jan.	222.0	221.7	3.6
Excl. coal, crude oil, nat. gas	Jan.	156.7	156.3	-0.6
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Jan.	315.5	314.3	3.3

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec.	1,217.7	15,505.3	6.4
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Jan.	7,662	7,662	-11.3

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tonnes)	Dec.	5,008	57,428	28.2
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Dec.	40.9	424.6	7.4
Natural Gas Production (million cubic metres)	Dec.	9,772	89,865	7.9
Petroleum Refining (million cubic metres)	Dec.	7.7	87.6	1.5

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Jan.	9,128	9,128	10.3
Imports — Balance of Payments Basis (\$ million)	Jan.	7,608	7,608	17.2

PRODUCTION

Railway Carloadings (million tonnes)	Dec.	16.9	240.0	15.9
Steel (ingots — thousand tonnes)	Feb.	1,150	2,298	-5.6

SALES

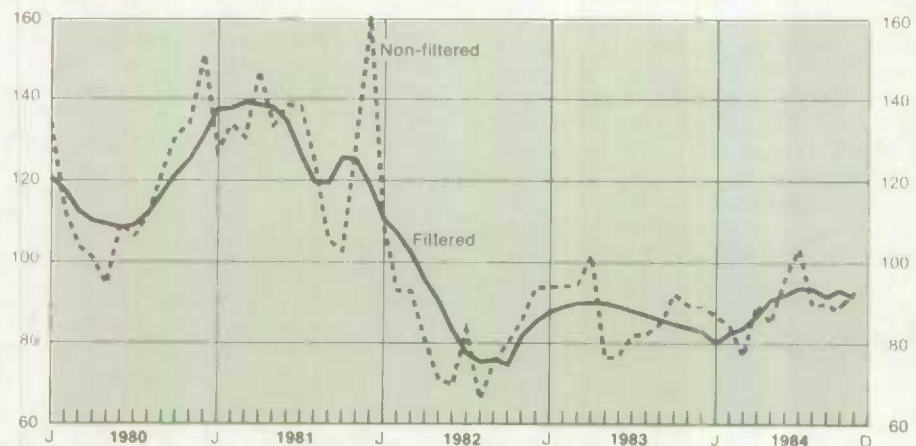
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Jan.*	692.7	692.7	6.7
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Dec.	17,930.3	225,817.1	13.2
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Jan.	1,140.8	1,140.8	23.5
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Jan.*	8,613.1	8,613.1	12.6

Statistics are in current dollars and are not seasonally adjusted.

* - new this week.

Indexes of Construction Activity in Canada

1971=100



Source: Statistics Canada, Building Permits (64-001)

Canada

... Women in Canada: A Statistical Report

Poverty is a major concern of Canadian women. One in 10 Canadian families is headed by a lone-parent woman, and 50% of these women are supporting their families on incomes that are below Statistics Canada's low income cut-off lines. One in three Canadian women over 65 years of age live alone, and 60% of those women who live alone are supporting themselves on an income that is below the low income cut-off line.

Other highlights of the report include:

- In 1982, women's average earnings were 64% of those of men, up from 60% in 1971.
- About 51% of all university students in 1982-83 were women, compared to 37% in 1970-71. However, women are over-represented in part-time studies, and under-represented in graduate programs.
- Women are more often victims of certain criminal acts. For example, 63% of the victims of domestic homicide are women, and between 1976 and 1982, sexual offences committed by men against women increased by 22% — the largest increase in any type of violent crime.

Order *Women in Canada: A Statistical Report (89-503E, Canada: \$25)* or contact **Colin Lindsay** (613-990-8213), *Social and Economic Studies*, or **Kathy Kennedy** (613-993-7644), *Communications Division*.

Self-Employment

In 1984 nearly 1.5 million persons, or more than one in every eight workers, were self-employed. An examination of the annual average number of paid workers and self-employed individuals in the years 1979 to 1984 shows that the growth rate for the self-employed exceeded that of paid workers throughout the period. This difference was most pronounced from 1982 to 1983, when the number of self-employed persons increased by 4.4%, compared to 0.3% for paid workers.

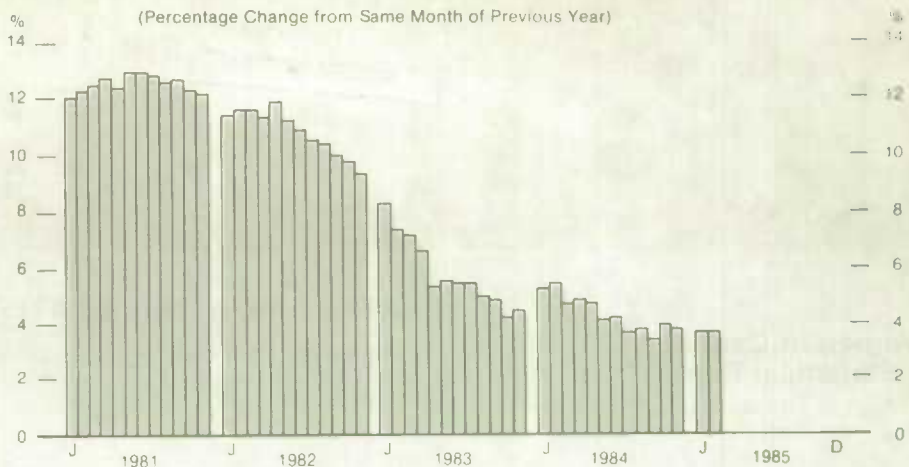
Two articles published in the February 1985 issue of *The Labour Force* examine self-employment. The first, entitled "Self-Employment in Canada: An Overview", addresses the definitional and conceptual issues related to the measurement of self-employment, and reviews trends in the number of self-employed from 1979 to 1984. The second article, entitled "Self-Employment in Canada: A Closer Examination", examines self-employment in more detail. Using the broader definition of self-employment described in the first article, this study describes the composition of self-employment in Canada in 1984 in terms of industry, age and sex. It then examines the increase in the number of self-employed workers during the recession, focusing on key sectors and population groups. Lastly, it explores some possible explanations for this increase.

Order the February 1985 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, \$3.85/\$38.50), or contact **Ian Macredie** or **Jean-Marc Lévesque** (613-990-9452), *Labour Force Activity Section*.

Consumer Price Index for Canada (CPI)

(1981=100)

(Percentage Change from Same Month of Previous Year)



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

Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada (1981=100) rose 0.6% between January and February to a level of 125.4. The largest contributing factor in this increase was the food index which rose 1.1% following an increase of 1.2% in January. The 0.5% rise in the all-items excluding food index largely reflected increases in the clothing, housing and recreation indexes.

The year-to-year increase in the CPI, as measured by comparing the index level for February 1985 to that of February 1984, was 3.7%, unchanged from that recorded in January. This marks the seventh month in which the year-to-year change has been 4.0% or less.

The 1.1% increase in the food index in February resulted principally from the rise in the food purchased from stores index which was up 1.4% for the second consecutive month, while the food purchased from restaurants index rose marginally by 0.1%.

Refined Petroleum Products and Natural Gas

Preliminary figures show that in January 1985, sales of refined petroleum products in Canada increased by 0.1% from a year earlier, while sales of natural gas increased by 1.1%.

Refined Petroleum Products

During January 1985, sales of petroleum products by Canadian refiners and major distributors amounted to 6 718 600 cubic metres, up 0.1% from the level recorded in January 1984. Production of petroleum products by Canadian refiners amounted to 7 159 667 cubic metres, down 10% from January 1984.

Natural Gas

During January 1985, sales of natural gas by main distributors amounted to 6 295 515 thousand cubic metres, up 1.1% from the level recorded during January 1984.

Order the January 1985 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, \$15/\$150) and *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$10/\$100), or contact **Gérard O'Connor** or **Gary Smalldridge** (613-990-9823), *Industry Division*.

Sharply higher prices for fresh vegetables (10.0%) and fresh fruit (9.4%), combined with higher prices for beef, bakery products and soft drinks were the major contributors to the latest food price increase. Only partially offsetting these increases were lower prices for meat preparations, cured meat, dairy products and eggs. The index for food purchased from stores now stands 3.7% above its level of February 1984 while the index for food purchased from restaurants is 4.1% higher than it was in February 1984. The resulting year-to-year rise in the aggregate food index stands at 3.9%, the same rate as was observed in January.

The all-items excluding food index rose 0.5% with the largest contribution coming from higher clothing prices following end of season sales. Seasonally higher charges for holiday tours during the peak month of February and higher housing costs contributed significantly to the most recent rise in the all-items excluding food index. Health and personal care charges rose moderately as did transportation prices where higher air fares, on transborder and southern routes, were partially offset by lower gasoline prices resulting from "price wars" in a number of cities. Between February 1984 and February 1985, the all-items excluding food index rose 3.6%, the same rate as recorded in January.

Viewed in terms of goods and services, the index level for goods rose 0.6% in February while that for services rose 0.4%. Between February 1984 and February 1985, the price level for goods rose by 3.7% while that for services increased by 3.6%.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the all-items index increased 0.4% between January and February, as both the food and all-items excluding food indexes each rose 0.4%. During the three-month period November to February, the all-items index rose at a seasonally adjusted compounded annual rate of change of 4.7%.

Order the February 1984 issue of *The Consumer Price Index* (62-001, \$2.75/\$27.50), or contact **Sandra Shadlock** or **Suzanne Gratton** (613-990-9606), *Prices Division*.

Retail Trade

Unadjusted Sales

Preliminary estimate of total retail trade for January 1985 increased 12.6% over the January 1984 level and totalled \$8,613.1 million in current dollars. The most notable gains were reported in men's clothing stores (+24.3%), motor vehicle dealers (+20.1%) and all other food stores (+20.0%). The only sales decreases were in furniture, T.V., radio and appliance stores (-14.1%) and household appliance stores (-8.5%).

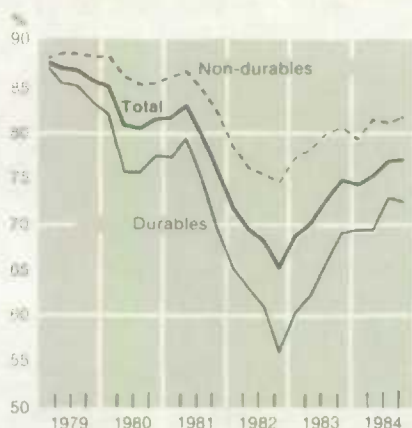
The revised sales estimates for December 1984 were \$11,805.5 million, a 0.9% gain over the December 1983 sales. Total retail trade in 1984 reached \$114,868.8 million, up 8.1% over the 1983 level of \$106,243.0 million.

Seasonally Adjusted Sales

Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations, holidays and the number of trading days, retail trade estimates for January 1985 were \$9,967.3 million, 0.6% higher than the previous month's revised sales of \$9,904.6 million. Major gains were registered in January by hardware stores (+4.0%), used car dealers (+3.7%) and motor vehicle dealers (+3.6%). By comparison, major decreases were posted by household furniture stores (-15.3%), furniture, T.V., radio and appliance stores (-13.3%) and personal accessories stores (-4.9%).

Order the January 1985 issue of Retail Trade (63-005, \$3.85/\$38.50), or contact Michael Kwilecki (613-990-9665), Industry Division.

Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing



Source: Statistics Canada, Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing (31-003)

Security Transactions

Foreign demand for outstanding Canadian bonds, which gave rise to record net sales to non-residents of \$3.5 billion in 1984, remained strong into January 1985, producing a further net inflow of \$214 million. This was slightly below the net inflow of \$260 million recorded in the previous month, and came principally from Continental Europe and the United Kingdom.

Non-residents reduced their holdings of outstanding Canadian equities producing a net capital outflow of \$37 million in January, following a net disinvestment of \$76 million in December 1984.

Similarly, residents of Canada reduced their investments in outstanding foreign securities, producing a net inflow of \$144 million. Declines were recorded in holdings of both foreign equities (\$85 million) and bonds (\$59 million).

While gross trading in bonds, both Canadian and foreign, continued to be sizeable, there was in January, a sharp increase in the volume of trading in stocks in line with the strength in these markets.

Order the January 1985 issue of Security Transactions with Non-residents (67-002, \$2.75/\$27.50), or contact John Motala (613-990-9051), International and Financial Economics Division.

Railway Operating Statistics

The seven major railways reported a combined net income from operations of \$57.7 million in October 1984. Operating revenues totalled \$659.8 million, an increase of 14.1% over the October 1983 figure.

Revenue freight tonne-kilometres were up by 2.0% during the month. Freight train-kilometres registered an increase of 8.7%, while freight car-kilometres increased 0.2%. The average revenue per tonne-kilometre of freight was 2.556 cents for October 1984. Revenue passenger-kilometres increased by 51.9% to 154.7 million.

Order the October 1984 issue of Railway Operating Statistics (52-003, \$2.75/\$27.50), or contact the Rail Unit (613-990-8693), Transportation Division.

Capacity Utilization

Capacity utilization in Canadian manufacturing was virtually unchanged in the fourth quarter of 1984, edging up 0.3% to a level of 77.0% from 76.8% in the third quarter.

In the latest quarter, higher capacity utilization rates were posted in 10 of the 20 industry groups. The most important gains registered in the fourth quarter were observed in tobacco products (+6.4%), leather industries (+5.7%) and furniture and fixtures (+5.2%). Of the 10 industry groups reporting decreased rates, the machinery industry recorded the most significant decline (-5.3%). The remaining decreases were less than 3.0%.

Utilization rates in durable manufacturing industries decreased by 0.7% in the fourth quarter of 1984 to 72.3% of capacity from 72.8% in the previous quarter. In the non-durable sector capacity utilization increased 1.0% to 81.8% from 81.0%.

Contact D. Wallace or R. Landry (613-990-9684), Science, Technology and Capital Stock Division.

Department Store Sales

Unadjusted Sales

Unadjusted sales of department stores totalled \$692.7 million in January 1985, up 6.7% over the January 1984 level. Sales were higher in 31 of the 40 departments, with the largest increases being reported in hardware, paints, wallpaper, etc. (+28.2%), repairs and services (+23.9%) and toys and games (+23.5%). The most notable decreases were recorded in piece goods (-23.2%), gasoline, oil, auto accessories, repairs and supplies (-18.8%) and plumbing, heating and building materials (-13.9%).

Sales by major department stores in January 1985 reached \$453.7 million, up 4.7% from the corresponding month last year, while Junior department stores had sales of \$239.0 million, up 10.6% over the same period.

Department store sales constituted 8.0% of total retail trade in Canada in January 1985, a notable decline from the 8.5% share held in January 1984.

Seasonally Adjusted Sales

Adjusted for seasonal variations and the number of trading days, total department store sales in January 1985 decreased 1.1% to \$954.6 million from the revised December 1984 level of \$965.4 million. Among the 20 departments recording lower sales, the largest decreases were reported in lamps, pictures, mirrors and all other home furnishings (-14.7%), gasoline, oil, auto accessories, repairs and supplies (-13.2%) and floor coverings (-12.5%). The most notable gains were recorded in toys and games (+21.2%), millinery (+17.4%) and repairs and services (+11.6%).

Order the January 1985 issue of Department Store Sales and Stocks (63-002, \$3.30/\$33), or contact Michael Kwilecki (613-990-9665), Industry Division.

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Fur

The total value of pelts sold during the 1983-84 season was \$90,983,396, down 0.2% from the previous season. Wildlife pelts brought in \$41,810,479 or 46% of the total. Fur farm production accounted for \$49,172,917, up from \$44,291,029 in the previous year.

Order Fur Production (23-207, \$5), or contact P.L. Beerstecher (613-990-8714), Agriculture/Natural Resources Division.



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Oils and fats, December 1984

Production and sales of phonograph records and pre-recorded tapes in Canada, January 1985

Production and shipments of blow-moulded plastic bottles, Quarter ended December 31, 1984

Production, sales and stocks of major appliances, January 1985

Production, shipments and stocks on hand of sawmills East of the Rockies, December 1984

Refined petroleum products, December 1984

Shipments of animal and poultry feeds, Semi-annual period ended December 1984

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The consumer price index, February 1985

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