

Ontario best for professions

Ontario has regained its status as the region offering the most job vacancies for professional occupations, according to a survey by the Technical Service Council.

The survey, which polls openings in manufacturing, mining and service industries, found that Ontario had more job vacancies at the end of December than any other region in Canada. A similar survey at the end of the third quarter of 1979 concluded that the Prairie provinces had more vacancies, which marked the first time that any region had more openings than Ontario.

Across Canada, there were a record 3,313 professional job vacancies at the end of December, a 9.8 per cent increase from the end of September.

The rise was almost entirely the result of openings in Ontario for chemical process engineers, industrial engineers, systems analysts and computer programmers.

Although Ontario now has the greatest number of openings, the Prairie provinces chalked up the largest percentage gains for the entire year. Demand for professionals rose 33.6 per cent across Canada in 1979. Vacancies in the Prairies showed the largest increase, 50 per cent, compared with 29.4 per cent in British Columbia, 28.9 per cent in Ontario and 13.2 per cent in Quebec.

Experienced computer programmers, systems analysts, mechanical sales engineers, plant engineers and chemical process engineers were in great demand. A strong demand was also reported for junior and intermediate accountants, experienced electronic technicians and technologists, petroleum engineers, production supervisors and maintenance engineers.

There were very few vacancies for experienced ceramic engineers, architects, agricultural engineers, technical illustrators, operations research analysts, biologists, biochemists, corporate lawyers and foresters.

Canada Weekly is published by the External Information Programs Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

Material may be freely reprinted. A credit would be appreciated. Photo sources, if not shown, will be provided on request to the editor.

Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.

Algunos números de esta publicación aparecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

News briefs

The Federal Government sold \$174 million worth of its gold holdings on the private market during January in the first such sale in a decade. The measure was a step to reduce dependence on gold as an asset in official reserves, according to the Finance Department. The sale of 250,000 ounces of gold, at an average price of \$690 (U.S.) an ounce, helped the Government repay \$300 million borrowed from Canadian chartered banks to support the dollar over the last year.

A strong upturn in the economy is expected in 1981 but results in 1980 will be relatively poor, according to an economic forecast by Greenshields Incorporated. Real GNP in 1980 will rise by only about 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent, (4 per cent to 4.5 per cent expected in 1981); the trade surplus is expected to decline this year to between \$2.5 billion and \$3 billion (\$4.5 billion to \$5 billion in 1981) and the CPI is expected to rise by between 9.5 per cent to 11 per cent (9.5 per cent to 10.5 per cent in 1981). More strength in business investment is forecast in 1981 with the projected gain in real terms being 5.5 per cent to 6 per cent, compared with 4.5 per cent to 5 per cent in 1980.

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has approved loans, insurance and guarantees totalling \$135.84 million to support prospective export sales of \$220.09 million to six countries: Algeria, Brazil, Greece, Ethiopia, Mexico and the U.S.A. In announcing the approvals, EDC said that export sales which would result if commercial sales are finalized will create or maintain some 6,194 man-years of employment in Canada and will involve some 166 exporters and major suppliers across Canada. The transactions involve such goods and services as road graders, mining equipment, flight simulators, steel plant expansion, and engineering design services.

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in December was 7.1 per cent, down from 8.1 in December 1978, Statistics Canada reports. The annual average unemployment for 1979 was 7.5 per cent. The actual number of people unable to find work in December was 779,000, compared with 859,000 in December 1978.

Historians, genealogists, urban planners and biographers are among the groups who may want to use the *Checklist of Canadian Directories 1790-1950* as a

reference tool. The checklist, which has just been published by the National Library of Canada, contains 932 titles, 172 place names and refers to 3,387 titles. Information in the checklist includes: railway schedules, the times of mail deliveries, the names of local clubs and societies and the names of the professors of local universities. Copies of the checklist are available from the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Hull, Quebec, Canada K1A 0S9.

Thomson Newspapers Limited has successfully acquired control of FP Publications Limited, owner of eight newspapers, for about \$164.5 million. A group headed by Argus Chairman Conrad Black had opened bidding for FP Publications at about \$100 million early in December and later raised this to \$119 million but faded from the scene when bids began to escalate. Thomson will now control 127 newspapers in North America.

Sizeable declines in short-term interest rates and a modest drop in long-term rates, including those for mortgages, are being forecast for 1980 by the Bank of Montreal. Senior Vice-President G. Neal said that the prime lending rate will fall to 11 per cent or 11.5 per cent by the end of 1980. The decline in long-term rates will mean a return to normal yield curve. The five-year closed conventional mortgage rate will decline to about 12.25 per cent. Credit demand will moderate and the Canadian dollar's external value will strengthen modestly with a trading range of 85-89 cents (U.S.). Over-all, the economy will show no real growth, the CPI will rise by 11 per cent and the unemployment rate will rise to an average of 8.5 per cent, he predicted.

Northern Telecom Limited of Montreal has signed an agreement with American Telephone and Telegraph Company to sell as many as 300 of its DMS-10 digital telephone switches to telephone companies each year beginning in 1981. The transaction is valued at about \$100 million in annual sales.

Officials of Frank J. Heffernan Veneers Ltd. of Waterloo, Ontario got a call from a supplier in Norfolk, Virginia. On the other end of the line they heard people singing *O Canada*, and then humming, following by kissing sounds. When Mr. Heffernan asked was going on, he was told it was "Kiss-a-Canadian Day" in Virginia.