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# INFOMAT

Weekly Bulletin

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## New Motor Vehicle Sales

Retail sales of new motor vehicles totalled 92,769 units in December, down 17.7% from a year earlier. Total sales value decreased 10.4% to \$583.1 million.

Sales of passenger cars produced in Canada and the United States dropped 20.4% to 59,468 units while those of overseas-manufactured automobiles declined 24.1% to 9,181 units.

Commercial vehicle sales in December decreased 7.3% from a year earlier to 24,120 units; included were 23,267 produced in Canada and the U.S. (down 5.3%) and 853 manufactured overseas (down 40.5%).

In 1976, retail sales of new motor vehicles totalled 1,291,465 units with an accumulated value of \$7,743.8 million. This represents a decrease of 1.9% in units but an increase of 6.6% in value compared with sales in 1975. Passenger car sales decreased 4.3% to 946,500 units in 1976 from 989,280 in 1975 while sales of commercial vehicles rose 5.4% to 344,965 units from 327,349.

For further information, order the December 1976 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007, 30¢/\$3), or contact M. Kwilecki (613-996-9304), *Merchandising and Services Division*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

## International Travel

The number of United States residents visiting Canada in 1976 decreased by 6.8% from the previous year to 32.2 million. In contrast, Canadian residents returning from the U.S. (including Hawaii) increased more than 8% to 35.9 million.

Residents of overseas countries visiting Canada numbered 1.6 million in 1976, up 18.8% from 1975. Canadian residents returning from countries other than the U.S. increased by 11.4% to 1.6 million.

Statistics for December show that 1.5 million U.S. visitors entered Canada, down 8.6% from December 1975. Canadian residents returning from visits to the U.S. numbered 2.2 million, up 7.2% from the previous year. Visitors entering Canada from countries other than the U.S. rose by 2.7% to 70,000 while Canadians returning from abroad totalled 76,000.

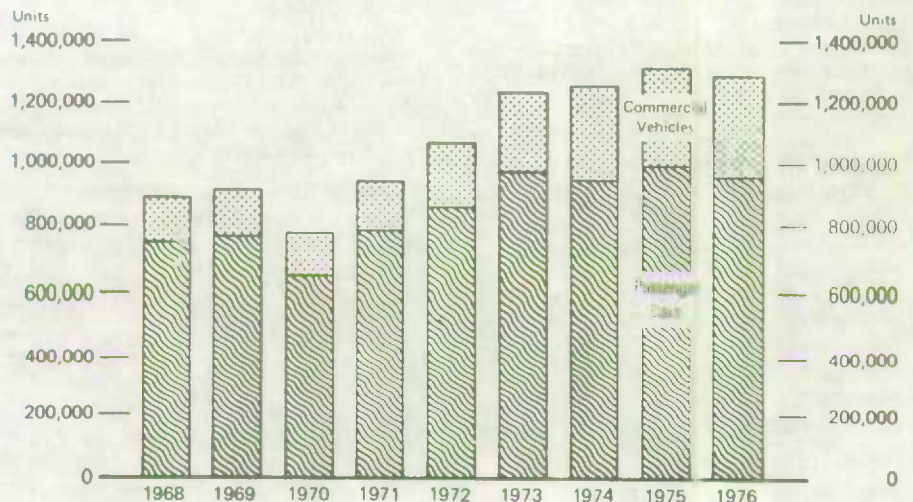
For further information, order the December 1976 issue of *International Travel — Advance Information* (66-002, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact M.W. Valiquette (613-995-0847), *International Travel Section*, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
<b>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</b>			
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Nov. 236.29p	234.60p	10.7
Labour Income (\$ million)	Nov.* 9,039.2p	9,187.6p	13.9
Persons with Jobs (million)	Jan.* 9.26	9.48	1.2
Unemployed	Jan.* 889,000	754,000	11.1
<b>INVENTORIES</b>			
Department Store (\$ million)	Nov. 2,118	2,161	22.8
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Nov. 16,502p	16,503r	6.7
Wholesale (\$ million)	Nov. 6,751	6,776	14.8
<b>ORDERS</b>			
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Nov. 8,690p	8,155r	12.8
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Nov. 9,378p	9,369r	-8.9
<b>PRICES</b>			
Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Dec. 152.7	152.2	5.8
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Dec. 164.9	163.7r	4.6
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Nov. 515.3	510.9r	2.8
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>			
Building Permits (\$ million)	Nov. 933.1	11,271.5	15.5
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Oct. 16,471	171,350	19.7
<b>ENERGY</b>			
Coal Production (thousand tons)	Oct. 2,686	22,123	-3.3
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Nov. 26.1	263.1	6.8
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Aug. 256.7	2,289.6	0.6
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Nov. 53.8	566.3	0.1
<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b>			
Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Dec. 3,238	38,028	14.8
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Dec. 3,021	37,391	7.9
<b>PRODUCTION</b>			
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Dec. 131.1	1,640.1	15.2
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Dec. 1,182	14,286	1.2
<b>SALES</b>			
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Nov. 669.6	5,557.4	13.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Nov. 8,681p	89,829	12.2
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Dec.* 583.1	7,743.8	6.6
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Nov. 5,041	50,890	12.0
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Nov. 4,383	46,110	11.0

*Statistics are not seasonally adjusted. p - preliminary. r - revised. \* - new this week.*

## Canadian Sales of New Motor Vehicles



Source: New Motor Vehicle Sales (63-007)



### Restaurant Statistics

Restaurants in Canada had total estimated receipts of \$179.9 million in December, an increase of 9.1% from a year earlier. Sales were up in all provinces except Newfoundland.

Restaurant receipts for the latest month, by province and with percentage changes from December 1975 in brackets:

- Ontario, \$69.5 million (10.1%); Quebec, \$56.3 million (7.4%); British Columbia, \$15.8 million (10.2%); Alberta, \$15.1 million (15.3%); Manitoba, \$8.8 million (6.2%); Saskatchewan, \$5.7 million (9.7%); Nova Scotia, \$3.9 million (5.3%); New Brunswick, \$3.2 million (3.3%); Newfoundland, \$1.3 million (-1.9%); and Prince Edward Island, \$444,000 (9.6%).

Cumulatively, restaurant receipts during 1976 totalled an estimated \$2,242.1 million, up 11.2% over 1975. Chain restaurants accounted for 18.8% of sales last year while independents took the balance.

For further information, order the December 1976 issue of *Restaurant Statistics* (63-011, 15¢/\$1.50).

### Income After Tax,

#### Distributions by Size in Canada, 1974

Average after-tax income of Canadian families rose 17% to \$12,576 in 1974 from \$10,771 in 1973. The average estimated federal and provincial income tax paid by families increased 16% over the same period to \$2,257 from \$1,945.

The average after-tax income of unattached individuals increased by 18% to \$5,234 in 1974 from \$4,424 in 1973. Unattached individuals paid an average \$865 in federal and provincial income tax in 1974, up 19% from \$725 the previous year.

For further information, order *Income After Tax, Distributions by Size in Canada, 1974* (13-210, \$1.05). Inquiries should be directed to the Data Dissemination Unit (613-992-4742), Consumer Income and Expenditure Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Asbestos

Canadian producers' shipments of asbestos increased to 153,467 short tons in December from 140,255 short tons a year earlier.

Asbestos shipments in 1976 totalled 1,693,742 short tons, up 45.6% from 1,163,674 short tons in 1975.

For further information, order the December 1976 issue of *Asbestos* (26-001, 15¢/\$1.50).

### THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities, January

Department Store Sales and Stocks, December

Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, December

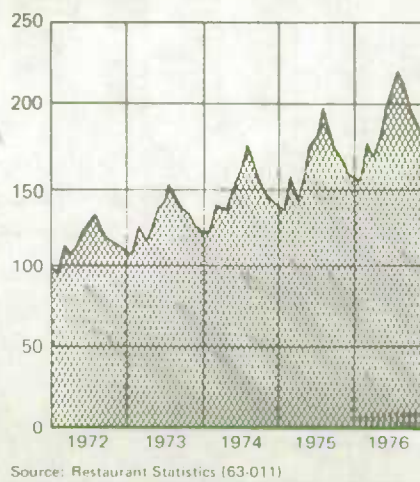
Real Domestic Product, December

Retail Trade, December

Summary of Foreign Trade, January

### Restaurant Receipts

Millions of Dollars



### Department Store Sales by Regions

Department store sales rose to \$982.4 million in December, up 12.5% from a year earlier. Increases were recorded in all regions of Canada.

Department store sales by regions for the latest month, with percentage gains over December 1975 in brackets:

- Ontario, \$381.5 million (12.6%); Quebec, \$184.5 million (13.9%); British Columbia, \$146.2 million (9.5%); Alberta, \$120.5 million (15.5%); Atlantic Provinces, \$67.4 million (9.1%); Manitoba, \$54.4 million (11.1%); and Saskatchewan, \$28.0 million (18.1%).

For further information, order the December 1976 issue of *Department Store Sales by Regions* (63-004, \$1.50 per year).

### Labour Income

Total labour income for November was estimated at \$9,039.2 million, up 13.9% from November 1975.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, the November estimate of \$9,017.2 million showed a decrease of 0.2% from October. The decline reflected retroactive payments totalling \$175 million received in October by Quebec employees in the hospital and education fields.

For further information, order the October-December 1976 issue of *Estimates of Labour Income* (72-005, \$1.05/\$4.20). Advance details are available from Mrs. G. Gauthier (613-995-8067), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V2.

### Provincial Government Finances

Provincial and territorial governments in Canada had financial assets amounting to \$24,414.1 million at March 31, 1975, an increase of 17.1% from a year earlier. Liabilities of these governments increased 14.4% over the same period to \$25,097.4 million.

For further information, order *Provincial Government Finance, Assets, Liabilities and Sources and Uses of Funds, 1974* (68-209, \$2.10), or contact the Provincial Government Section (613-995-0718), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### The Labour Force

Canada's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate remained at 7.5% in January, unchanged from December.

Last month the unemployment rate for men 25 years of age and over remained unchanged at 4.4% while for women 25 and over it increased to 7.0% from 6.8% in December. For persons aged 15 to 24, the unemployment rate decreased to 13.3% from 13.7%.

Between December and January, the seasonally-adjusted participation rate — percentage of the population 15 and over included in the labour force — rose to 61.0% from 60.6%.

On an actual basis, the number of persons employed dropped to 9.26 million in January from 9.48 million in December but was up from 9.15 million in January 1976.

The actual unemployment total was 889,000 or 8.8% of the 10.14 million included in the labour force last month. By province, unemployment rates were: Newfoundland, 17.1%; New Brunswick, 14.7%; Nova Scotia, 11.1%; Prince Edward Island, 11.1%; Quebec, 10.3%; British Columbia, 10.0%; Ontario, 7.7%; Manitoba, 7.0%; Alberta, 5.8%; and Saskatchewan, 4.9%.

For further information, order the January 1977 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, 55¢/\$5.50).

### Non-Residential Building Construction Input Price Index

(1971=100)

The non-residential building construction input price index for Canada rose to 171.0 in December, an increase of 0.6% from November and up 8.4% from a year earlier.

The materials component of the total index advanced 4.5% over the 12 months from December 1975; labour costs rose 12.4%.

Prices of concrete products used in non-residential building construction climbed 10.0% during this period; smaller increases were recorded for: lumber and lumber products (7.5%); plumbing, heating and air conditioning (4.9%); steel and metal work (2.9%); electrical equipment (0.4%); and other materials (5.2%).

For further information, order the December 1976 issue of *Construction Price Statistics, Monthly Bulletin* (62-007, \$4 per year), or contact L.J. Seary (613-994-5807), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

### Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production

Crude petroleum production for October amounted to 1.49 million barrels per day, down 7.2% from a year earlier.

Natural gas production averaged 9.49 billion cubic feet per day in the latest month, an increase of 1.6% from October 1975.

For further information, order the October 1976 issue of *Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, 30¢/\$3), or contact G. R. Kitchen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.



### Farm Cash Receipts

Farmers' cash receipts from farming operations in all provinces except Newfoundland totalled an estimated \$9,737.7 million in 1976, down 1.4% from \$9,877.0 million in 1975.

These estimates include: cash receipts from the sale of farm products; Canadian Wheat Board participation payments on previous years' grain crops; cash advances on farm-stored grains in Western Canada; and deficiency payments made by the Agricultural Stabilization Board. No deduction was made for the cost incurred by farmers in the production of the commodities sold.

Total payments made to farmers in 1976, by province and with 1975 figures in brackets:

- Ontario, \$2,667.3 million (\$2,581.8 million); Saskatchewan, \$2,262.1 million (\$2,469.0 million); Alberta \$1,822.6 million (\$1,873.1 million); Quebec, \$1,331.5 million (\$1,322.9 million); Manitoba, \$888.5 million (\$934.5 million); British Columbia, \$436.7 million (\$405.6 million); Nova Scotia, \$118.1 million (\$112.6 million); New Brunswick, \$108.3 million (\$96.3 million); and Prince Edward Island, \$102.6 million (\$81.2 million).

For further information, order the December 1976 issue of *Farm Cash Receipts* (21-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact E.S. Boyko (613-994-9876), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

### Farm Equipment Sales

Sales of farm implements and equipment were valued at \$1,149.8 million (dealers' cost) in 1976, up 18.0% from \$974.4 million in 1975.

Sales of repair parts for farm equipment rose 14.8% last year to \$156.0 million.

For further information, order the December 1976 issue of *Farm Implement and Equipment Sales* (63-009, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact the Merchandising and Services Division (613-996-9307), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Housing Starts

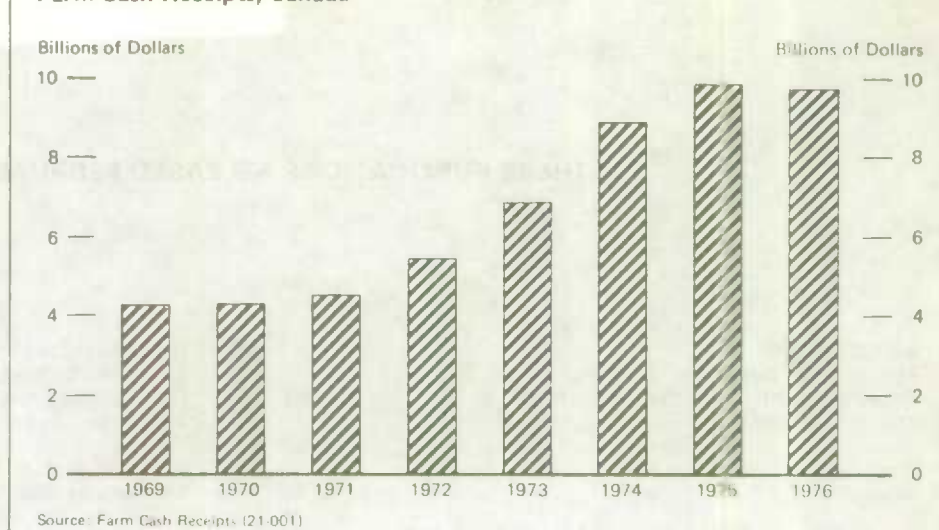
New residential construction activity showed strength in November as housing starts in Canadian centres of 10,000 population and over increased 9.6% to 20,754 units from 18,935 a year earlier.

Housing starts recorded in the latest month, by province and with November 1975 figures in brackets: Ontario, 6,683 (7,489); Quebec, 5,758 (3,668); Alberta, 2,813 (2,638); British Columbia, 2,524 (2,498); Saskatchewan, 1,581 (1,067); Manitoba, 828 (578); New Brunswick, 244 (357); Nova Scotia, 225 (390); Newfoundland, 94 (235); and Prince Edward Island, 4 (15).

For the first 11 months of 1976, housing starts in centres of 10,000 population and over totalled 192,104 units, up 18.5% from 152,088 in the corresponding period of 1975.

For further information, order the November 1976 issue of *Housing Starts and Completions* (64-002, 40¢/\$4).

### Farm Cash Receipts, Canada



### Births and Marriages, 1975

The estimated number of births to Canadian residents totalled 358,621 in 1975, an increase of 3.4% from 1974. The estimated birth rate for Canada was 15.7 per 1,000 population in 1975 compared with 15.4 in 1974. Birth rates declined in Newfoundland — which has the highest rate among the provinces — Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Yukon. Quebec and the Northwest Territories registered the highest rate of increase in the birth rate.

The number of marriages solemnized in Canada during 1975 totalled 197,585, reflecting a slight decline for the third consecutive year from the all-time high of over 200,000 recorded in 1972. The rate per 1,000 population declined to 8.7 from 8.9 in 1974 and 9.2 in 1972. Alberta was the only province to show a higher marriage rate in 1975.

For further information, contact D. Nagnur or J. Silins (613-995-0864), Vital Statistics and Disease Registries Section, Health Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Security Transactions with Non-Residents

Transactions in outstanding securities between residents of Canada and non-residents produced a net capital outflow of \$36 million in October compared with the net inflow of \$29 million recorded in September. This was the first month of 1976 for which a net outflow was registered and resulted largely from substantial purchases from non-residents of common and preferred shares, and reduced net inflows from the sale to non-residents of outstanding Canadian bonds.

For the first 10 months of 1976, transactions in outstanding Canadian and foreign securities led to a net inflow of \$623 million, up from the net inflow of \$321 million recorded in the January-October 1975 period.

For further information, order the October 1976 issue of *Security Transactions with Non-Residents* (67-002, 40¢/\$4).

### Railway Freight Traffic

Revenue rail freight carried by Canadian railways in the July-September 1976 period totalled 70.3 million tons, an increase of 13.1% over the 62.2 million tons hauled in the third quarter of 1975. Traffic received from United States connections (included above) was up 4.5% to 5.2 million tons.

Traffic increases were recorded in four of the seven major freight groupings in the latest period. The volume of crude materials rose 14.9%, reflecting substantially heavier loadings of iron ore and pulpwood chips (both commodities were carried at below-normal levels in 1975 because of industrial labour problems). Fabricated materials were up 15.0%, and again forest products were notable among the increases. Special types of traffic (piggyback, freight forwarder and mixed carload) showed a gain of 43.7%, due almost entirely to increased trailer-container movements.

On a regional basis, loadings (excluding U.S. receipts) were ahead in seven of the 10 provinces; only Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Territories registered third-quarter 1976 rail losses.

For further information, order *Railway Freight Traffic, Third Quarter 1976* (52-002, \$1.05/\$4.20), or contact J. R. Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, January 1, 1977	32-010	30¢/\$3	The Sugar Situation, December 1976	32-013	15¢/\$1.50
<b>EXTERNAL TRADE</b>					
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<b>GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT</b>					
National Income and Expenditure Accounts, Third Quarter 1976	13-001	\$1.05/\$4.20	<b>Energy Statistics — Vol. 11:</b>		
No. 33, Refined Petroleum Products, November 1976; No. 34, Energy Supply and Demand in Canada, 1974					
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Department Store Sales and Stocks, November 1976					
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