# INFOMAT

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Weekly Bulletin

November 2, 1973 CATALOGUE 11-002

### Farm Input Price Index (1961=100)

The farm input price index for Canada advanced to 170.7 in the third quarter of 1973, up 7.3% from the previous quarter, and 20.1% higher than a year earlier.

Over the twelve months since the third quarter of 1972, costs have increased 26.6% for farmers in Eastern Canada and 12.7% for western farmers. (Livestock feed, up 75% during the period, accounted for 13% of the eastern farm inputs, but only 2.7% of all inputs in the western index).

In the latest quarter, livestock feed prices rose 25.8%, accounting for approximately two-thirds of the 7.3% advance. Higher prices for feeder cattle (up 14.7%), hired labour (5.1%), motor vehicle operation (2.9%) and building materials also contributed to the rise in the total index.

For further information, order Farm Input Price Indexes, Third Quarter 1973 (62-004, 254/\$1).

#### **Railway Operating Statistics**

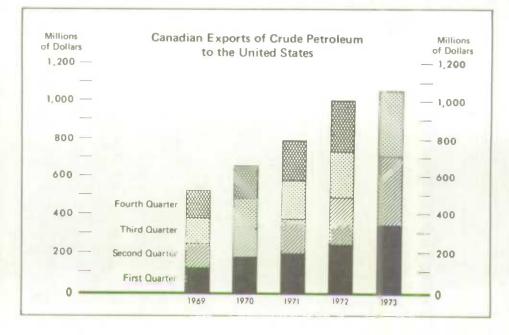
Canada's six major common carrier railways reported revenues totalling \$87.0 million in the strike-affected month of August, a decline of 41.1% from a year earlier. Expenses were down only 17.8% to \$120.9 million, resulting in a deficit of \$34.0 million for the month (versus net income of \$1.2 million in August 1972).

Freight ton-miles dropped 35.5 million in the latest month and passenger-miles were down 22.2 million.

For the January-August period of 1973, railway revenues increased 6.7% to \$1.27 billion; expenses rose 8.8% to \$1.25 billion. Net income of \$16.4 million was 56.6% lower than in the corresponding period in 1972.

For further information, order the August 1973 issue of Railway Operating Statistics (52-003, 204/\$2), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9274), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS	Lates	st Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)  Labour Income (\$ million)  Persons with Jobs (million)  Unemployed	July July Sept. Sept.	161.36P 5,313P 8.80 421.000	161.38P 5,466P 9.24 433.000	7.8 12.4 5.0 -8.3
ENERGY	F	,	,000	010
Electricity Generation (billion k.w.h.) Gas Utilities' Sales (billion cu. ft.)		20.5 73.6	20.7 74.4	12.0 15.0
INVENTORIES  Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Aug.	9,715P 4,267	9,513T 4,483	10.8 13.6
Department Store (\$ million)		1,006	1,020	11.2
		5 2420	6.000-	
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)		5,342P	5,277r	21.3
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million) PRICES	Aug.	6,691P	6,446 <sup>r</sup>	32.8
Consumer Price (Index 1961=100) Industry Selling Price (Index 1961=100) Residential Building Construction	Sept. Sept.	153.9 147.4	153.0 147.8r	8.5 14.7
(Index 1971=100)	Sept.	124.7 400.0P	1 23.9 402.7r	10.6 27.4
CONSTRUCTION			Ye.	ar to date
Building Permits (\$ million) Housing Starts-urban centres (units)		772.3P 19,622	5,3 134,2	21 25.9
FOREIGN TRADE				
Exports (\$ million)		1,818P 1,780P	17,8	
SALES				
Chain Store Sales (\$ million)		1,234 335	9,1	37 I4.7 29 15.7
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Aug.	5,097P	41.8	
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	382	3,6	
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	3.072	24,1	
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	2,999	22.0	
Statistics are not seasonally adjusted	. P . p		r . revised	



## Preliminary Statement of Canadian Trade, September 1973

Canadian imports in September at \$1.78 billion were 19.5% higher than a year earlier.

Commercial vehicles, motor vehicle parts (incorporating retroactive price adjustments), food, industrial machinery and non-ferrous metals contributed 44% of the \$270 million import gain from the United States. Crude petroleum accounted for most of the \$21 million increase in imports from overseas countries.

Cumulatively, Canadian imports rose 23.0% to \$16.7 billion in the January-September period of 1973. Imports from the United States accounted for some 80% of the gain this year, with the most notable increases recorded for automotive and related products, industrial machinery, aircraft and food.

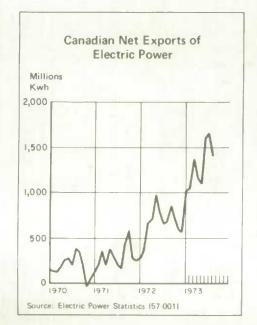
Imports from overseas countries were significantly higher for crude petroleum, food, apparel and footwear, and in-

dustrial machinery.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, imports in September at \$1.94 billion were up 1.3% from the month before.

Imports for the third quarter of 1973 at \$5.80 billion were up \$242 million from the preceding quarter. With a decline of \$176 million to \$5.99 billion (revised) in exports, Canada's third-quarter merchandise trade surplus stood at \$196 million (down from \$614 million in the second quarter and \$359 million in the first quarter of 1973).

For further information, order the September 1973 issues of Summary of Imports (65-005, 204/\$2), and Summary of Exports (65-002, 204/\$2).



## THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Consumer Credit, September

Consumer Price Movements, October

Department Store Sales by Regions, September

Housing Starts and Completions, September

New Motor Vehicle Sales, September

The Labour Force, October

# Industry Selling Price Index: Manufacturing

(1961=100)

The industry selling price index for manufacturing declined to 147.4 in September, down 0.3% from August, but 14.7% higher than in September 1972.

Sixty-five of the 102 industry indexes included in the total index were higher in the latest month, 11 declined and 26

were unchanged.

The more notable increases were in: the textile group (particularly cotton yarn and cloth mills); men's clothing; the furniture and wood groups; paper industries group (corrugated box manufacturers); the petroleum and coal group; and in bakeries. The increases were more than offset by decreases in the food and beverages group (slaughtering and meat packing), flour mills and vegetable oil mills. The decline in flour mills followed upon a sharp advance in August.

Over the year, September to September, the largest price advances were shown by the following component group indexes:

• Foods and beverages industries, up 26.8%; Wood industries, 18.9%; Primary metal industries, 17.6%; Petroleum and coal products industries, 20.4%.

For further information, order the September 1973 issue of Prices and Price Indexes (62-002, 404/\$4).

## **Cheques Cashed** in Clearing Centres

The value of cheques cashed in clearing centres in July totalled \$116.8 billion, up 30.7% from a year earlier.

Of the fifty clearing centres, fortyeight showed a higher value of cheques cashed in the latest month. Payments in Vancouver rose by 46.7%, Toronto 35.4%, Montreal 26.0% and Winnipeg 25.2%.

For further information, order the July 1973 issue of Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres (61-001, 204/\$2).

General Wholesale Index (1935-39=100)

The general wholesale price index declined to 400.0 in September, down 0.7% from 402.7 (revised) in August, but 27.4% higher than the September 1972 level.

In the latest month, four of the eight major group indexes were lower, while four advanced.

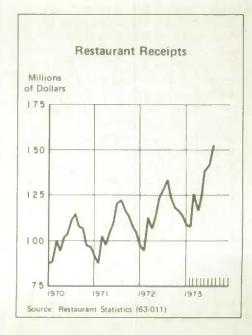
The animal products group index fell 4.9% in September on price decreases for animal oils and fats, fresh and cured meats, hides and skins, and livestock. The vegetable products group index dropped 1.2% on lower prices for potatoes, vegetable oil and its products, onions, and milled cereal foods.

Textile prices rose 5.1% with increases recorded for raw cotton, cotton yarns, miscellaneous cotton products, cotton fabrics and worsted yarns. An advance of 1.1% in the non-metallic minerals products group index reflected price increases for asbestos, asphalt, coke and plaster.

Over the twelve months from September 1972, the following advances were recorded by the major group indexes:

• Vegetable products, 63.0%; Animal products, 30.8%; Textile products, 25.4%; Non-ferrous metals, 24.5%; Wood products, 14.4%; Iron products, 11.3%; Non-metallic minerals, 9.9%; Chemical products, 7.3%.

For further information, order the September 1973 issue of Prices and Price Indexes (62-002, 404/\$4).



#### Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act Report for 1971 Part II-Labour Unions

In 1971, Canadian membership of labour organizations reporting under the Corporations and Labour Unions Return Act totalled 2,375,182, an increase of 107,656 (4.7%) from the year before. Labour organization returns for 1971 were filed by 172 international and national unions, reporting on 10,361 local branches in Canada. This supplementary report presents a comprehensive statistical picture of the dimensions of union organization, financial operations and other related factors.

Some of the highlights as charted here:

- The manufacturing industry was the major contributor to union membership and local union organization in Canada in 1971, making up about 33% of the total membership, even though it was not the most highly-organized industry. The second-largest component group was service industries with about 18% of the union members in Canada. Public administration and transportation and other utilities came next with 14.9% each, and the construction industry with 10% (chart).
- During the 1970-71 period, women's representation in the organized labour force covered by the Act rose by 44,935 to 558,138 members. Women workers comprised 23.5% of all union members in Canada in 1971, as compared with 22.6% in 1970 and 16.4% in 1962 (chart).

For the full range of data and analysis, order: Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act, Report for 1971, Part II-Labour Unions (71-202 supplement, n/c).

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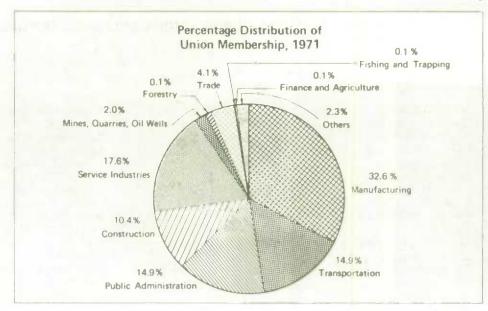
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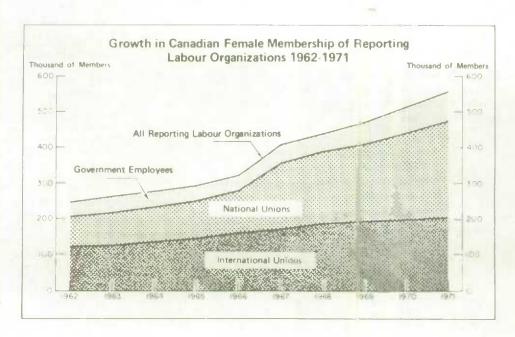
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# Residential Building Construction Input Price Index

(1971=100)

The residential building construction input price index for Canada moved up to 124.7 in September, up 0.6% from the month before, and 10.6% higher than in September 1972.

Over the twelve months, September to September, prices of building materials used in residential construction rose 11.2%; labour costs advanced 10.0%.

For further information, order the September 1973 issue of Prices and Price Indexes (62.002, 40¢/\$4), or contact P. Du Brûle (613.996-2565), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

# Non-Residential Building Construction Input Price Index

(1961=100)

The non-residential building construction input price index for Canada advanced to 201.8 in September, up 2.1% from the month before, and 8.7% higher than in September 1972.

The materials component of the total index has risen 11.0% over the twelve months since September 1972; the labour component is up 7.0%.

Under the materials grouping, lumber and lumber products have risen 24.0% during the period, steel and metal work 10.7%, electrical equipment 10.3%, plumbing, heating and other equipment 9.2%, concrete products 6.6% and other materials 7.4%.

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1973	32-021	10¢/\$1	New Motor Vehicle Sales, August 1973	63-007	20¢/\$2
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