

# INFORMAT

Weekly Bulletin



February 22, 1974  
CATALOGUE 11-002

## Farm Equipment Sales

Sales of farm implements and equipment totalled \$545.6 million in 1973, up 29.8% from \$420.3 million in 1972.

Sales of repair parts for farm equipment increased 26.0% to \$110.8 million in 1973.

For further information, order the December 1973 issue of *Farm Implement and Equipment Sales* (63-009, \$1 a year), or contact Y. Lebel (613-996-9307), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

## Motor Vehicle Production

Canadian production of motor vehicles reached 154,543 units in January, an increase of 6.2% from a year earlier.

Passenger car production rose 5.5% to 118,850 units in the latest month; production of commercial vehicles advanced 8.7% to 35,693 units.

For further information, order the January 1974 issue of *Preliminary Report on the Production of Motor Vehicles* (42-001, 10¢/\$1).

## The Wheat Review

Latest available estimates indicate that supplies of wheat remaining (at January 1, 1974) in the four major exporting countries, for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years, amounted to 1,708.4 million bushels, down 17% from a year earlier. (The newly-harvested 1973-74 wheat crops in the Argentine and Australia are taken into consideration in these totals).

Supplies on hand in these countries were as follows (in millions of bushels and with last year's comparable figures in brackets):

- United States, 642.8 (1,110.3); Canada, 637.1 (659.2); Australia, 306.9 (148.7); Argentina, 121.6 (149.5).

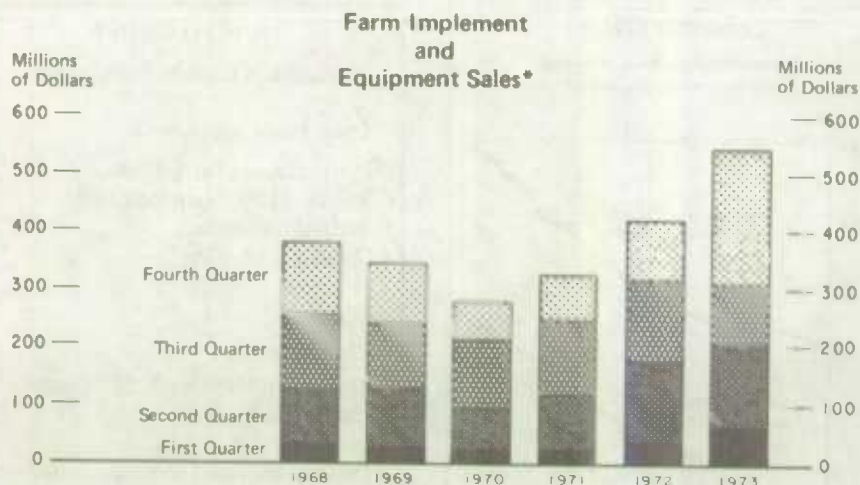
Canadian exports of wheat (and flour in terms of wheat equivalent) during the August-December period of the current crop year amounted to 187.1 million bushels, some 34% less than the 282.8 million bushels exported during the corresponding period the previous year.

For further information, order the January 1974 issue of *The Wheat Review* (22-005, 30¢/\$3).

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

		Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
<b>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</b>				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Nov.	165.67P	164.79P	7.7
Labour Income (\$ million)	Nov.	5,573P	5,590P	12.5
Persons with Jobs (million)	Jan.	8.65	8.79	5.5
Unemployed	Jan.	637,000	512,000	-7.4
<b>ENERGY</b>				
Electricity Generation (billion k.w.h.)	Dec.	24.8	23.3	6.9
Gas Utilities' Sales (billion cu. ft.)	Dec.	134.7	113.5	7.2
<b>INVENTORIES</b>				
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Dec.	10,502P	10,247 <sup>r</sup>	16.9
Wholesale (\$ million)	Dec.	4,578	4,383	17.7
Department Store (\$ million)	Nov.	1,217	1,127	18.2
<b>ORDERS</b>				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Dec.	5,838P	6,293 <sup>r</sup>	25.3
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Dec.	7,657P	7,357 <sup>r</sup>	48.0
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price (Index 1961=100)	Jan.	157.6	156.4	9.1
Industry Selling Price (Index 1961=100)	Dec.	151.7	150.2 <sup>r</sup>	15.9
Residential Building Construction (Index 1971=100)	Dec.	127.9	127.0	10.8
Wholesale Price (Index 1935-39=100)	Dec.	412.0P	408.9 <sup>r</sup>	25.5
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec.	634.7P	8,525	31.9
Housing Starts-urban centres (units)	Dec.	17,255	211,543	2.2
<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b>				
Exports (\$ million)	Dec.	2,161	25,208	25.6
Imports (\$ million)	Dec.	1,969	23,317	24.9
<b>SALES</b>				
Chain Store Sales (\$ million)	Dec.	1,934	15,137	14.7
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Nov.	484	3,651	15.4
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Dec.	5,538P	65,273	18.0
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Dec.	340	5,364	24.4
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Dec.	4,083	38,239	12.6
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Dec.	2,871	34,082	21.0

Statistics are not seasonally adjusted. P - preliminary. <sup>r</sup> - revised.



\* Valued at dealers' cost and not including repair parts

Source: Farm Implement and Equipment Sales (63-009)

## Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in December were estimated at \$2.87 billion, up 24.6% from a year earlier.

The "motor vehicles" component in the consumer goods trades showed an advance of 28.3%.

The most notable change in the industrial goods trades was a 31.1% gain in the "other construction materials and supplies including lumber" category.

Wholesale inventories were valued at \$4.58 billion in the latest month, an increase of 17.7% from December 1972.

Total wholesale trade reached \$34.08 billion in 1973, up 21.0% from the 1972 figure.

For further information, order the December 1973 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, 10¢/\$1).

## Consumer Credit

Consumer credit outstanding on the books of selected credit holders reporting monthly totalled \$13.82 billion at the end of December, up 18.9% from a year earlier.

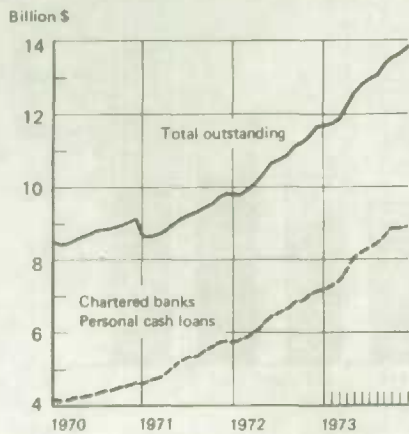
Personal cash loans by chartered banks rose to 8.88 billion in the latest month, an increase of 24.3% from December 1972.

Sales finance and consumer loan companies held \$1.13 billion balances of retail instalment sales paper (an increase of 10.1% from a year earlier) and had \$1.42 billion outstanding of personal cash loans (up 15.0%).

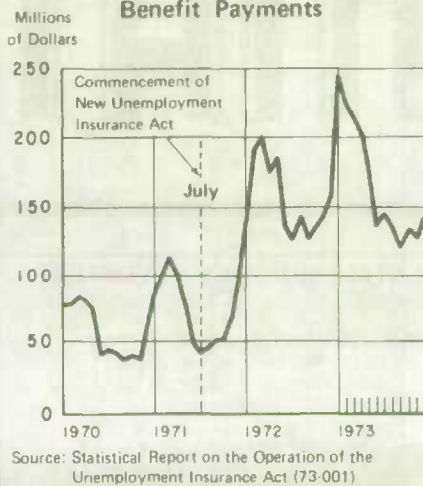
For further information, order the December 1973 issue of *Consumer Credit* (61-004, 20¢/\$2), or contact Consumer Credit Section (613-996-9278), or Telex 053-3585, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

## Consumer Credit

Outstanding on the books of selected credit holders reporting monthly



## Unemployment Insurance Commission Benefit Payments



## Unemployment Insurance Claims

Benefit paid to claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act rose to \$142 million in December, up 10% from \$129 million in November but 11% less than the \$159 million disbursed in December 1972.

The average weekly payment to claimants advanced 3% to \$71.19 in December from the previous month's average of \$68.99 and was 10% more than the year-earlier payment of \$64.99.

Initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance totalled 256,000 in the latest month, an increase of 4% from the November count of 247,000 but 7% less than the 275,000 received in December 1972.

For further information, order the December 1973 issue of *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (73-001, 20¢/\$2), or contact George Fincham (613-992-7461), Labour Division Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

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## Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities

Consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities and city combinations in January with increases ranging from 0.1% in St. John's to 1.1% in Toronto.

Food indexes increased in all cities. Higher quotations were registered in most centres for dairy, bakery and cereal products, beef cuts, fresh produce, processed fruits and vegetables, sugar and food eaten away from home. However, pork and poultry prices were generally lower across the country.

Housing components advanced in all cities except St. John's, Newfoundland, reflecting increased shelter costs and higher prices for furniture, and household supplies.

Transportation indexes rose in all cities and city-combinations in response to advances in the train and plane fares indexes together with higher prices for new cars and motor oil. Taxi fares were also higher in several cities.

Over the twelve months from January 1973, the greatest increase in the Consumer Price Index was recorded in St. John's (10.9%).

For further information, order the January 1974 issue of *Prices and Price Indexes* (62-002, 40¢/\$4).

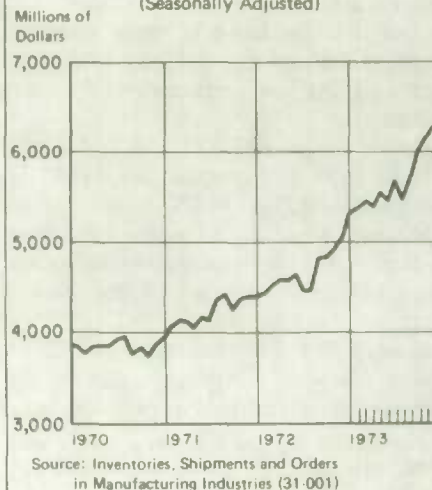
## Gas Utilities

Canadian consumers purchased 134.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas in December, an increase of 7.2% from a year earlier. Exports of natural gas dropped 3.4% to 88.1 billion cubic feet.

For further information, order the December 1973 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, 20¢/\$2), or *Energy Service Bulletin* (57-002, \$3 a year), Vol. 9, No. 16.

## Manufacturers' New Orders

(Seasonally Adjusted)





### Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries

Manufacturers' new orders in December, seasonally adjusted, were estimated at \$6.27 billion, up 2.0% from \$6.15 billion (revised) in November. New orders for non-durable goods rose 5.2%; those for durable goods dropped 1.2%.

Unfilled orders were estimated at \$7.85 billion in December, up 4.2% from the previous month.

Total inventory owned was 2.0% higher at an estimated \$10.50 billion.

The ratio of total inventory owned — to shipments was 1.76 in December, up from 1.75 (revised) a month earlier. The finished products — to shipments ratio was 0.58, unchanged from November.

Manufacturers' shipments in December were estimated at \$5.96 billion, an increase of 1.5% from the revised November estimate of \$5.87 billion.

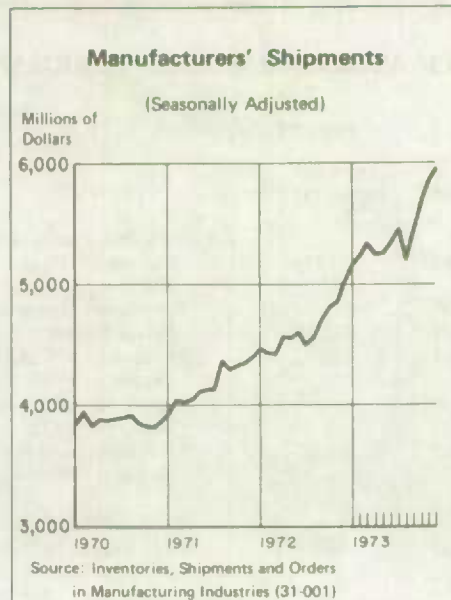
Unadjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in December were estimated at \$5.54 billion, an increase of 19.3% from a year earlier. Cumulatively, shipments in 1973 totalled \$65.27 billion, up 18.0% from the 1972 value of \$55.33 billion.

For further information, order the December 1973 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, 40¢/\$4).

### Refined Petroleum Products

Canadian refineries produced 54.9 million barrels of refined petroleum products in December, up 6% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the December 1973 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, 30¢/\$3), or *Energy Service Bulletin* (57-002, \$3 a year), or contact Ian Cavanagh (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.



### Quarterly Report on Job Vacancies

Full-time job vacancies in Canada numbered 77,400 in the fourth quarter of 1973, a decrease of 13.3% from the previous quarter, but up 10.3% from the corresponding quarter in 1972.

All economic regions showed quarter-to-quarter decreases in the number of vacancies for full-time jobs. In the year-to-year increases — shared by all regions — the Pacific region led (up 2,500), followed by Quebec (up 1,800) and Ontario (up 1,500).

The over-all decrease in full-time vacancies from the previous quarter was mainly due to reduced job opportunities in blue-collar occupations (down 10,600 or 89% of the total decrease).

However, in a year-to-year comparison, blue-collar jobs accounted for 61% of the total increase of 7,200 full-time vacancies.

For further information, order *Quarterly Report on Job Vacancies, Fourth Quarter 1973* (71-002, 75¢/\$3), or contact J. Boucek (613-992-2006), Job Vacancy Survey Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

### THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Department Store Sales by Regions, January

Estimates of Labour Income, December

General Wholesale Price Indexes, January

New Motor Vehicle Sales, January

Summary of Exports, January

### Canadian Balance of International Payments

Advance estimates for the fourth quarter of 1973 show an increase of \$100 million from the previous quarter in the seasonally-adjusted current account deficit to \$171 million. The increase in the deficit resulted from an expansion in the deficit on non-merchandise transactions which more than offset a rise of 14% in the merchandise trade surplus to \$502 million.

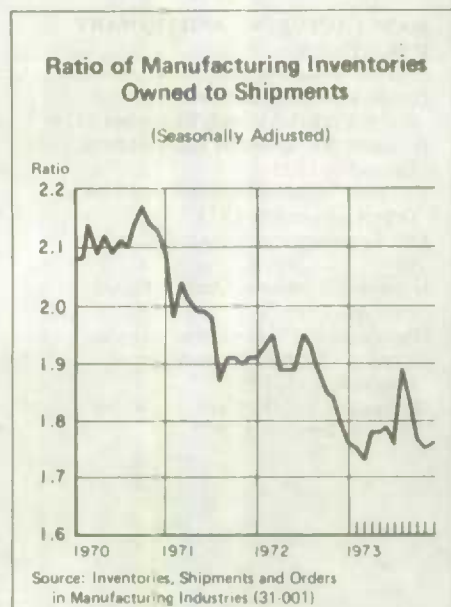
Merchandise exports grew at about 12% to \$6.92 billion; merchandise imports went up by over 11% to \$6.42 billion.

Non-merchandise transactions produced a seasonally-adjusted deficit of \$673 million, up 32% from the third quarter. Receipts increased marginally to \$1.55 billion, but payments rose by over 9% to \$2.22 billion.

Without seasonal adjustment, the current account was practically in balance in the fourth quarter with a deficit of \$15 million.

With exports amounting to \$7.24 billion and imports to \$6.56 billion, merchandise trade gave rise to a surplus of \$679 million. Total receipts on "invisibles" were \$1.49 billion while payments were \$2.19 billion, to give a net deficit of \$694 million.

For further information, order *Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments, Fourth Quarter 1973* (67-001, 75¢/\$3), or contact D.K. McAlister (613-996-2545), Balance of Payments Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z8.



## THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FEBRUARY 14 - 20

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The Dairy Review, December 1973	23-001	20¢/\$2	Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, December 1973	26-007	10¢/\$1
The Wheat Review, January 1974	22-005	30¢/\$3	Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, December 1973	25-001	10¢/\$1
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<b>SERVICE BULLETIN</b>			1972 Census of Manufactures - Office and Store Machinery Manufacturers	42-216-p	\$3.50 for series
Education Division - Vol. 3, No. 1, Fall Enrolments in Canadian Uni- versities, 1972-73	81-001	N/C	1972 Census of Manufactures - Paper and Plastic Bag Manufacturers	36-207-p	\$3.50 for series
<b>FINANCIAL FLOWS AND MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES</b>			<b>SERVICE BULLETINS</b>		
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<b>JUDICIAL</b>			Phonograph Records and Pre-Recorded Tapes - Vol. 1, No. 12, Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-Recorded Tapes in Canada, December 1973	47-004	\$1 a year
<b>SERVICE BULLETIN</b>			<b>MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES</b>		
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