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# INFORMAT

Weekly Bulletin



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CATALOGUE 11-002

## Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries

Manufacturers' seasonally-adjusted new orders for February were estimated at \$6.48 billion, down 0.1% from the previous month's level. New orders for non-durable goods rose 2.4%; durable goods new orders dropped 2.8%.

The backlog of unfilled orders was estimated at \$8.25 billion in February, up 1.1% from a month earlier.

Total inventory owned, seasonally adjusted, was 2.4% higher at \$11.20 billion.

The seasonally-adjusted ratio of total inventory owned - to shipments at 1.75 in February, and the finished products - to shipments ratio at 0.58 were unchanged from the previous month.

Manufacturers' shipments in the latest month (seasonally adjusted) were estimated at \$6.39 billion, an increase of 2.0% from the January level.

Not adjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in February increased 2.1% from a month earlier to reach \$5.96 billion. Shipments for the first two months of 1974 totalled \$11.80 billion, up 22.9% from the corresponding period in 1973.

For further information, order the February 1974 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, 40¢/\$4), or contact H.D. Wightman (613-996-7008), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

## Retail Chain Stores

Sales of retail chain stores climbed to \$10,164.4 million in 1972 from \$9,007.0 million the previous year. The maximum number of retail chain outlets in operation rose to 17,303 in 1972 from 16,351 in 1971.

The chain store section's share of the total retail market was approximately 30.0% of the total retail sales market in 1972, up from 29.4% in 1971. Grocery and combination stores accounted for 43.4% of the total chain market, down slightly from 44.0% in 1971.

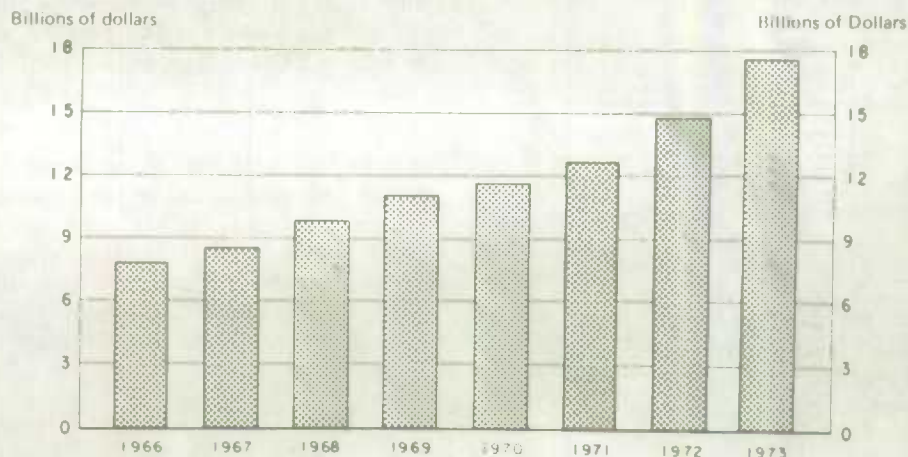
For further information, order the 1972 issue of *Retail Chain Stores* (63-210, 70¢).

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
<b>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</b>			
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Feb. 169.00P	166.78P	8.0
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb. 5,645P	5,590P	12.0
Persons with Jobs (million)	Mar. 8.73	8.67	4.1
Unemployed	Mar. 599,000	635,000	-1.5
<b>INVENTORIES</b>			
Department Store (\$ million)	Feb. 1,107	967	22.9
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb. 11,312P	10,983P	20.7
Wholesale (\$ million)	Feb. 5,014	4,756	19.6
<b>ORDERS</b>			
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb. 6,084P	6,157P	21.7
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb. 8,257P	8,133P	44.1
<b>PRICES</b>			
Consumer Price Index (1961=100)	Mar. 160.8	159.2	10.4
Industry Selling Price Index (1961=100)	Feb. 158.9	156.8P	18.1
Residential Building Construction Index (1971=100)	Mar. 131.4	129.6P	10.0
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Feb. 434.8	427.9P	26.3
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>			
Building Permits (\$ million)	Jan. 428.0P		Year to date 428 16.3
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	Feb. 9,029		22,535 12.3
<b>ENERGY</b>			
Electricity Generation (billion Kwh.)	Feb. 23.7	50.8	10.9
Gas Utilities' Sales (billion cu. ft.)	Feb. 141.6	295.6	12.8
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Feb. 52.3	108.4	9.3
<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b>			
Exports (\$ million)	Mar. 2,396P	6,836	21.9
Imports (\$ million)	Mar. 2,443P	6,739	28.4
<b>SALES</b>			
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb. 278	572	19.9
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb. 5,961P	11,802	22.9
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb. 424	829	20.3
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb. 2,900	5,897	13.5
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Feb. 3,014	5,883	30.8

Statistics are not seasonally adjusted. P - preliminary. P - revised.

## Consumer Credit Balances Outstanding, Selected Holders, Year-end 1966-73



Source: Consumer Credit (61-004)

### Summary of Exports

Canadian exports in March at \$2.40 billion were up 23.3% from \$1.94 billion a year earlier.

Shipments to the United States rose 18.9% to \$1.65 billion. Exports of crude petroleum (including the export tax) increased by \$163 million to a total of \$276 million, petroleum products rose \$22 million and shipments of pulp were up \$34 million. On the other hand, reflecting the sharp cutback in motor vehicle production and the decline in residential construction in the U.S., exports of automotive engines and vehicle parts moved down some \$50 million and lumber deliveries were \$28 million lower.

Overseas exports increased 34.3% to \$744.9 million with shipments to Japan up by 43.0% and sales to the original six countries of the European Common Market up by 52.3%. Exports of wheat overseas were up \$67 million, including higher shipments to Japan and China.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, March exports increased 6.4% from the previous month's level to reach \$2.56 billion.

For further information, order the March 1974 issue of *Summary of Exports* (65-002, 30¢/\$3).

### Prison Population

The inmate population dropped to 20,136 in 1972, about 6% less than a year earlier.

For further information, order the 1972 issue of *Correctional Institution Statistics* (85-207, \$1.05).

### THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Consumer Price Movements, April  
Consumer Credit, March  
General Wholesale Price Index, March  
New Motor Vehicle Sales, March  
Retail Trade, March  
The Labour Force, April

### Non-Residential Building Construction Input Price Index

(1961=100)

The non-residential building construction input price index for Canada advanced to 215.5 in March, an increase of 1.8% from the previous month's level and up 12.6% from a year earlier.

The materials component of the total index rose 17.3% over the twelve months from March 1973; the labour element moved up 8.7%.

Under the materials grouping, prices of steel and metal work used in non-residential construction climbed 29.8% during this period, electrical equipment 23.3%, plumbing, heating and other equipment 14.5%, concrete products 13.3%, lumber and lumber products 2.8% and other products 17.5%.

For further information, order *Construction Price Statistics Service Bulletin* (62-006, \$4.20 a year), or contact P. Du Brûle (613-996-2565), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

### Summary of Imports

Canadian imports rose to \$2.4 billion in March, up \$573 million (30%) from a year earlier.

Purchases from the United States advanced 28.6% to \$1.73 billion with the most notable increases registered for automotive and related products (up \$33 million), aircraft (up \$15 million) and computers and parts (up \$11.5 million).

Imports from other countries increased 35.7% to \$717.4 million. Crude petroleum purchases rose to \$198.7 million from \$72.5 million a year earlier, and represented some two-thirds of the rise in the import bill from overseas countries.

Seasonally adjusted, imports in March reached \$2.60 billion, up 6.4% from the February level.

For further information, order the March 1974 issue of *Summary of Imports* (65-005, 30¢/\$3).

### Railway Freight Traffic, Fourth Quarter 1973

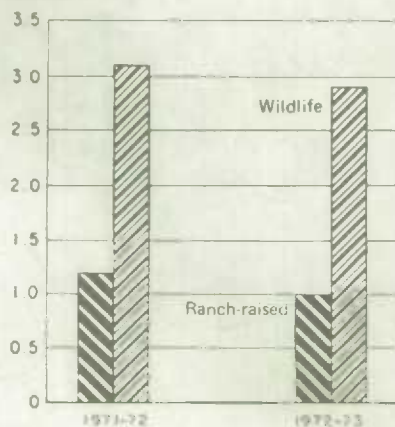
Railways operating in Canada carried a total of 71.7 million tons of revenue freight during the fourth quarter of 1973, 7.9% from the corresponding period in 1972.

In the latest quarter, crude materials registered an increase of 15.3% to 37.6 million tons, due mainly to increased loadings of iron ore. Fabricated materials, boosted by a 55.7% gain in potash shipments, rose 7.4% to 18.4 million tons.

For further information, order *Railway Freight Traffic, Fourth Quarter 1973* (52-002, \$1.05/\$4.20), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9276), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

### Number of Pelts Produced

Number of Pelts (Millions)



Source: Fur Production 1972-73 (23-207)

### Fur Production

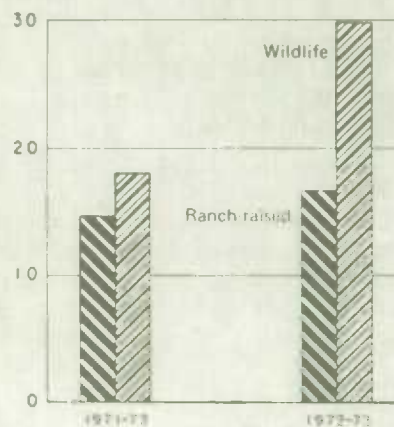
The value of pelts produced in the 1972-73 fur season was \$46.7 million, up 43% from \$32.7 million for the previous year.

Pelts from wild animals numbered 2.9 million and were valued at \$29.9 million compared to 3.1 million pelts worth \$18.0 million in 1971-72. Ranch-raised animals provided 1.0 million pelts worth \$16.7 million in 1972-73 compared to 1.2 million pelts worth \$14.7 million in the previous year.

For further information, order the 1972-73 issue of *Fur Production* (23-207, 70¢).

### Value of Pelts Produced

Millions of Dollars



Source: Fur Production 1972-73 (23-207)



### Railway Operating Statistics

Canada's six major railways reported a combined deficit of \$1.7 million in February in contrast to a net income of \$7.7 million recorded in February 1973.

Railway operating revenues rose 9.0% to \$169.2 million in the latest month; operating expenses were up 15.9% to \$170.8 million.

Freight-ton miles increased 5.0% to 9.9 billion, while passenger-miles decreased 2.0% to 109.0 million.

During the first two months of 1974, railway revenues rose 8.4% from the corresponding period a year earlier to \$341.2 million and expenses advanced 14.1% to \$342.0 million.

For further information, order the February 1974 issue of *Railway Operating Statistics* (52-003, 30¢/\$3), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9276), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

### Restaurant Statistics

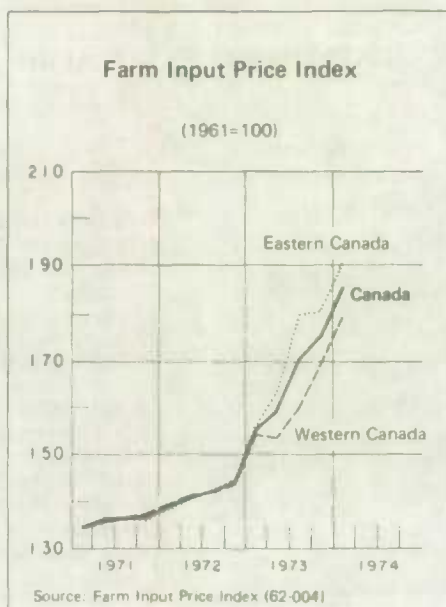
Canadian restaurants had total estimated receipts of \$123.8 million in February, an increase of 12.6% from a year earlier.

Restaurant sales were up in all provinces in the latest month, with gains recorded as follows:

- Ontario, 15.2%; British Columbia, 15.1%; Saskatchewan, 13.9%; Nova Scotia, 12.7%; Prince Edward Island, 12.3%; Newfoundland, 11.8%; Quebec, 10.6%; Manitoba, 9.2%; Alberta, 8.6%; New Brunswick, 7.2%;

Cumulatively, restaurant receipts in the first two months of 1974 totalled an estimated \$250.2 million, up 13.1% from the January-February period in 1973.

For further information, order the February 1974 issue of *Restaurant Statistics* (63-001, 15¢/\$1.50).



### Residential Building Construction Input Price Index

(1971=100)

The residential building construction input price index for Canada rose to 131.4 in March, up 1.4% from 129.6 (revised) in February and 10.0% above the March 1973 level.

Over the twelve months, March to March, prices of building materials used in residential construction increased 10.5%; labour costs moved up 8.9%.

During this period, residential building construction input price indexes advanced in all regions, with increases recorded as follows:

- Atlantic provinces, 14.6%; Prairie provinces, 10.6%; Ontario, 9.6%; Quebec, 9.6%; British Columbia, 8.5%.

For further information, order *Construction Price Statistics Service Bulletin* (62-006, \$4.20 a year).

### Farm Input Price Index

(1961=100)

The farm input index for Canada rose 5.6% in the first quarter of 1974, moving to 185.4 from its revised fourth quarter 1973 level of 175.5. The index for Western Canada advanced 6.1%; the Eastern Canada index moved up 5.3%.

Sharply-higher seed prices along with increased prices for feed, fertilizer, labour, machinery replacement and operation and supplies caused most of the upward movement in the index.

Over the twelve months from the first quarter of 1973, the Canada index has risen 19.5%. During this period, costs have increased 22.0% for farmers in Eastern Canada and 16.6% for western farmers.

For further information, order *Farm Input Price Indexes, First Quarter 1974* (62-004, 35¢/\$1.40).

### Telephone Industry Statistics

Canadian telephone systems reported net operating revenue of \$61.7 million in February, an increase of 13.2% from February 1973.

Gross operating revenues of the thirteen major telephone companies rose 14.7% to \$180.8 million in the latest month; operating expenses were up 15.5% to \$119.1 million.

Construction expenditures increased 34.5% to \$86.7 million from \$64.5 million a year earlier.

These systems reported a total of 81,557 employees in February, up 5,635 from the corresponding month in 1973.

For further information, order *Communications Service Bulletin* (56-001, \$1.40 a year) Vol. 4, No. 5, *Monthly Telephone Statistics, February 1974*.

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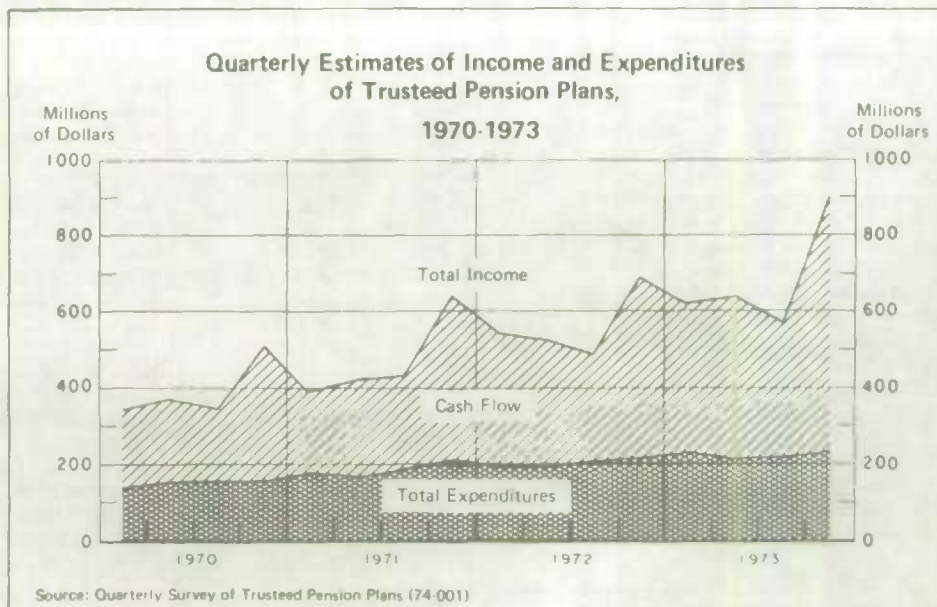
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