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INFORMAT

Weekly Bulletin

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

(1961=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada rose 1.7% to 164.6 in May from 161.9 in April.

Though all major components moved up, most of the impetus behind the latest month's advance came from a 3% rise in the food index and a 1.7% hike in the transportation index that was fueled by higher retail prices for petroleum products.

The housing component climbed 1.2% in May and the recreation, education and reading element advanced 1.1%. A rise of 0.9% was registered both for the tobacco and alcohol and the health and personal care elements, while that for clothing increased 0.7%.

Between May 1973 and May 1974, the All-Items Consumer Price Index advanced 10.9%.

During this period, the following index increases were recorded:

- Food, up 18.3%; transportation, 10.0%; clothing, 9.5%; housing, 8.0%; health and personal care, 7.7%; recreation, education and reading, 7.5%; and tobacco and alcohol, 4.8%.

For further information, order the May 1974 issue of *Consumer Price Movements* (62-001, 15¢/\$1.50).

Housing Starts and Completions

Housing construction declined in April as 15,782 starts were recorded in Canadian centres of 10,000 population and over compared with 18,456 starts registered a year earlier.

Single-family dwellings accounted for 47.8% of starts in the latest month, apartment units 37.4%, row housing 8.5% and doubles 6.3%.

Toronto recorded the greatest number of starts in April (3,493), followed by Montreal (1,856), Vancouver (1,680), Calgary (824), Ottawa (569), London, (506), Edmonton (503), Winnipeg (499), Windsor (456) and Hamilton (366).

For further information, order the April 1974 issue of *Housing Starts and Completions* (64-002, 40¢/\$4).

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

		Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Mar.	170.48P	168.76P	8.5
Labour Income (\$ million)	Mar.	5,829P	5,693P	14.3
Persons with Jobs (million)	May	9.15	8.87	3.5
Unemployed	May	524,000	568,000	6.3
INVENTORIES				
Department Store (\$ million)	Mar.	1,196	1,107	21.9
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Mar.	11,560P	11,265P	21.8
Wholesale (\$ million)	Mar.	5,109	5,014	19.5
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Mar.	6,413P	6,126P	12.8
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Mar.	8,446P	8,329P	43.2
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1961=100)	May	164.6	161.9	10.9
Industry Selling Price Index (1961=100)	Apr.	165.0	162.2P	19.4
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Apr.	452.2	444.5P	27.0
CONSTRUCTION				
Building Permits (\$ million)	Mar.	787.8P	1,717	16.0
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	Apr.	15,782	51,608	-0.4
ENERGY				
Electricity Generation (billion Kwh.)	Apr.	22.8	98.1	9.1
Gas Utilities' Sales (billion cu. ft.)	Mar.	136.8	432.4	13.4
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Mar.	56.2	164.9	10.1
FOREIGN TRADE				
Exports (\$ million)	Apr.	2,453P	9,334	21.6
Imports (\$ million)	Apr.	2,404P	9,150	29.4
PRODUCTION				
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Apr.	143.4	578.9	-1.1
Steel (ingots - thousand tons)	Apr.	1,202	4,816	0.5
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	346	918	17.5
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Mar.	6,296P	18,069	19.4
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	580	1,907	5.2
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	3,324	9,221	11.6
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	3,532	9,415	28.9

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

Canada's Gross National Product (GNP)



Gross National Product (GNP)

Preliminary estimates of the National Income and Expenditure Accounts indicate a continuation of strong economic growth in the first quarter of 1974.

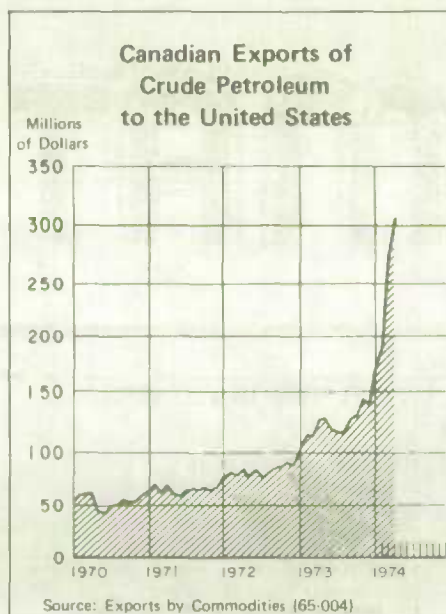
Canada's Gross National Product (at market prices) grew by 4.9% in the quarter to reach a level of \$132.1 billion, seasonally adjusted at annual rates. This followed a revised fourth-quarter 1973 increase of 4.4%.

The implicit price index for Gross National Expenditure rose at an accelerated rate of 3.2% in the latest quarter (compared with 1.8% in the preceding quarter). After discounting for price rises, the volume of production of goods and services rose by 1.7%, on the heels of an unusually-large gain of 2.6% in the fourth quarter of 1973.

Some of the highlights of the economy's first-quarter 1974 performance:

- Business investment in fixed capital goods showed an impressive increase as outlays rose by a 36.8% annual rate (compared with a 24.4% rate in the 1973 fourth quarter). Outlays on non-residential construction rose by a 34.8% annual rate in current dollar terms and by a 15.6% rate in volume terms — the largest gain since the first quarter of 1973. Machinery outlays surged in the quarter, rising by a 38.4% annual rate in current dollar terms and 24.4% rate in volume terms.
- New residential construction showed continuing strength in the first quarter, prolonging the boom which started in mid-1970. Spending rose at a 19.2% annual rate, following a 22.8% rate in the preceding quarter.
- Consumer spending on goods and services, which has been a mainstay of the economic expansion under way since 1971, rose by an annual rate of 17.6% in the first quarter (compared with 15.6% in the 1973 fourth quarter). In volume terms, there was an acceleration to an annual gain of 9.6% from 7.6%.
- Total labour income rose at a 16.8% annual rate in the first quarter (compared with an 18.0% rate in the fourth quarter) because of a large increase in supplementary labour income.
- Corporation profits (before taxes) rose at an annual rate of 24.8% in the 1974 first quarter (compared with an annual rate of advance of about 40% in the preceding four quarters).

For further information, order *System of National Accounts — National Income and Expenditure Accounts, First Quarter 1974* (13-001, \$1.05/\$4.20).



Farm Cash Receipts

Farmers' cash receipts from farming operations in all provinces except Newfoundland totalled an estimated \$3.22 billion for the first four months of 1974, up 72.7% from \$1.87 billion for the corresponding period in 1973.

Cash receipts rose in all provinces in the latest period. Total payments made to farmers, by province and with January-April 1973 figures in brackets:

- Saskatchewan, \$962.3 million (\$365.1 million); Ontario, \$719.7 million (\$592.7 million); Alberta, \$684.9 million (\$349.3 million); Manitoba, \$345.0 million (\$157.1 million); Quebec, \$295.8 million (\$241.4 million); British Columbia, \$97.9 million (\$72.6 million); New Brunswick, \$43.5 million (\$33.4 million); Prince Edward Island, \$43.0 million (\$28.8 million); and Nova Scotia, \$31.5 million (\$26.6 million).

For further information, order the *January-April 1974 issue of Farm Cash Receipts* (21-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact E.S. Boyko (613-994-9876), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Consumer Credit, April

Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities, May

Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, April

Retail Trade, April

Summary of Foreign Trade, May

Wholesale Trade, April

New Motor Vehicle Sales

Retail sales of new motor vehicles totalled 123,980 units in April, down 4.5% from a year earlier. Sales value increased 4.7% to \$580.2 million.

Sales of passenger cars produced in Canada and the United States increased 2.6% to 82,134 units; those of overseas manufactured automobiles dropped 52.6% to 11,717 units.

The share of the Canadian passenger car market held by overseas manufacturers declined to 12.5% from 23.5% in the corresponding month in 1973.

Commercial vehicle sales in April rose 20.3% from a year earlier to 30,129 units; included were 28,599 manufactured in Canada and the United States (up 26.1%) and 1,530 manufactured overseas (down 35.6%).

For the first four months of 1974, sales of new motor vehicles totalled 408,848 units with an accumulated value of \$1.91 billion. This represents a decrease of 3.2% in units but an increase of 5.2% in value compared with sales for the January-April period in 1973.

For further information, order the *April 1974 issue of New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007, 30¢/\$3), or contact Michael Kwilecki (613-996-9278), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Labour Income

Total labour income for March was estimated at \$5.83 billion, up 14.3% from a year earlier.

Seasonally adjusted, the March estimate of \$5.93 billion showed an increase of 1.8% from the previous month.

Seasonally-adjusted first quarter total labour income at an estimated \$17.5 billion was up 4.2% from the previous quarter. Wages and salaries in the goods-producing industries advanced by 3.2% and those in the service-producing industries by 4.1%.

For further information, order the *January-March 1974 issue of Estimates of Labour Income* (72-005, 40¢/\$4), or contact Mrs. G. Gauthier (613-995-8067), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V2.

Iron Ore

Canadian mines shipped 4.04 million tons of iron ore in April, a decrease of 5.5% from a year earlier.

Output for the first four months of 1974 at 9.14 million tons was down 1.3% from the corresponding period in 1973.

For further information, order the *April 1974 issue of Iron Ore* (26-005, 15¢/\$1.50) or contact Art Symons (613-992-0491), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

The Labour Force

Canada's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate rose to 5.5 in May from the previous month's level of 5.3 (5.4 in May 1973).

Regionally, the rate of unemployment increased to 10.7 in the Atlantic region from 9.2 in April, to 7.8 in Quebec from 7.4, to 3.9 in Ontario from 3.6 and to 3.3 in the Prairie region from 2.9. The rate decreased in British Columbia to 5.4 from 5.7 a month earlier.

Seasonally-adjusted employment showed a 12,000 decline to 9.07 million in May following seven consecutive monthly increases.

Not adjusted for seasonal variation, employment increased to an estimated 9.15 million persons in May from 8.87 million in April and 8.84 million a year earlier.

Unemployment decreased to 524,000 last month from 568,000 in April but was up from 493,000 in May 1973.

The total labour force numbered 9.68 million in the latest month compared with 9.34 million a year earlier.

For further information, order the May 1974 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, 55¢/\$5.50).

Electric Power Statistics

Net generation rose 8.4% in April to 22.8 billion kilowatt hours from 21.0 kwh. a year earlier.

Net generation was up in nine regions in the latest month but decreased in New Brunswick (-2.4%), British Columbia (-10.2%) and the Northwest Territories (-10.4%). The largest increases were recorded in Newfoundland (43.5%) and Prince Edward Island (22.4%).

Hydro generation increased 7.1% in April; thermal production was up 12.1%.

For further information, order the April 1974 issue of *Electric Power Statistics* (57-001, 30¢/\$3) or *Energy Statistics Service Bulletin* (57-002, \$4.20 a year), or contact D.F. Heney (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

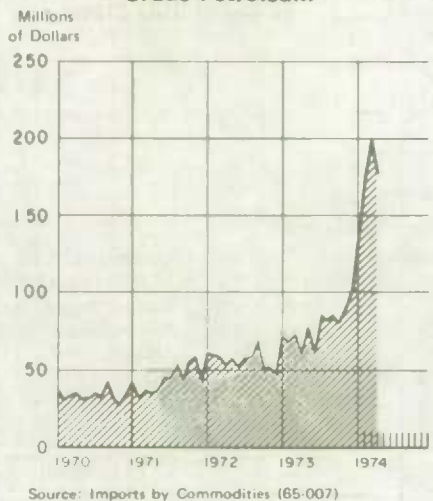
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production

Crude petroleum production for February amounted to 1.96 million barrels per day, down 2.1% from a year earlier.

Natural gas production averaged 10.16 billion cubic feet per day in the latest month, a decrease of 1.5% from February 1973.

For further information, order the February 1974 issue of *Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, 30¢/\$3), or *Energy Statistics Service Bulletin*, Vol. 9, No. 54 (57-002, \$4.20 a year).

Canadian Imports of Crude Petroleum



Travel Between Canada and Other Countries

Preliminary estimates for the first quarter of 1974 show Canada earned \$150 million from international travel, up from \$131 million the previous year. But Canadians spent \$525 million abroad in the quarter, leaving a deficit of \$375 million, higher than the \$310 million deficit incurred in the first quarter of 1973.

Canadian receipts in the latest quarter included \$116 million from travellers from the United States and \$34 million from those of all other countries.

The \$525 million in Canadian resident spending abroad included \$327 million in the United States and \$198 million in all other countries.

For further information, order the March 1974 issue of *Travel Between Canada and Other Countries* (66-001, 55¢/\$5.50), or contact M.W. Valiquette (613-992-1964), Financial Flows Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z8.

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Radio and Television Broadcasting, 1973

Provisional results based on 53 out of 56 returns from privately-owned television stations indicate that revenues from TV operations in the year ended August 31, 1973 totalled \$153 million, a 20% increase from \$128 million for the previous 12-month period. (The results do not include operations of the CBC and CTV networks).

Provisional results for the privately-owned radio stations, based on 238 returns, show a 12% revenue increase to \$164 million in the year ended August 31, 1973, from \$144 million for the previous 12 months. (The results do not include revenue earned by the CBC from its radio operations).

For further information, order *Radio and Television Broadcasting, 1973* (56-204, 70¢), or contact P.T. Crosby (613-996-9274), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

Cable Television, 1973

Provisional results based on 261 returns indicate that revenue from cable TV services for the year ended August 31, 1973, totalled \$108 million, up 32% from \$82 million for the previous 12-month period.

For further information, order *Cable Television, 1973* (56-203, 70¢), or contact P.T. Crosby (613-996-9274), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

Railway Transport, Part VI, 1973

Employment in the rail industry in 1973 continued the downward trend of the preceding sixteen years, declining 5.1% to an average of 124,201 persons from 130,814 in 1972. Total compensation in 1973 amounted to \$1.30 billion, an increase of 6.3% over the previous 12-month period.

Average employee earnings rose 11.9% to \$10,431 in 1973 and the average hourly wage rate at \$4.78 was up 55¢ from a year earlier.

For further information, order *Railway Transport, Part VI, 1973* (52-212, 70¢), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9276), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

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Field Crop Reporting Series - No. 7 Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada, June 6, 1974	22-002	\$5.60 for series	Hardboard, April 1974	36-001	15¢/\$1.50
Fluid Milk Sales, March 1974	23-002	\$1.50 per year	Iron Ore, April 1974	26-005	15¢/\$1.50
Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, May 1974	32-012	30¢/\$3	Particle Board, March 1974	36-003	15¢/\$1.50
Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, May 1974	32-010	30¢/\$3	Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, March 1974	25-001	15¢/\$1.50
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			Sand and Gravel Pits, 1972	26-215	70¢
BUSINESS FINANCE					
Cheques Cashed, March 1974	61-001	30¢/\$3	PRELIMINARY BULLETIN		
			1972 Census of Manufactures - Sporting Goods Manufacturers	47-204-p	\$3.50 for series
EXTERNAL TRADE					
Imports by Commodities, March 1974	65-007	\$1.05/\$10.50	SERVICE BULLETINS		
Summary of Exports, March 1974	65-002	30¢/\$3	Energy Statistics - Vol. 9, No. 45, Refinery Production in Canada of Selected Petroleum Products, March 1974; Vol. 9, No. 48, Fuel and Electricity Purchased and Con- sumed by Manufacturing Industries by Major Group, by Region, 1971; Vol. 9, No. 49, Coal and Coke Statistics, March 1974; Vol. 9, No. 51, Summary of Electric Gene- rating Equipment as at December 31, 1973	57-002	\$4.20 per year
Summary of Foreign Trade, March 1974	65-001	15¢/\$1.50	Fabricated Metal Products - Vol. 3, No. 4, Builders and Shelf Hardware, April 1974	41-009	\$2.80 per year
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Asbestos, April 1974	26-001	15¢/\$1.50	TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS		
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Pro- duction, December 1973	26-006	30¢/\$3	SERVICE BULLETIN		
Fertilizer Trade, 1973	46-207	70¢	Water Transport - Vol. 4, No. 3, Comparative Summary of Cargo Loaded and Unloaded at Canadian Ports in International Shipping for 1971, 1972 and 1973	54-003	\$1.40 per year
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