# INFOMAT <br> Weekly Bulletin 

## Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities

Consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities and city combinations in June, increases ranging from $0.8 \%$ in Winnipeg to $1.5 \%$ in Vancouver.

Food indexes climbed in all cities, higher charges for a wide range of homeconsumed items and for restaurant meals outweighing generally lower prices for meat, poultry and eggs. Indexes for housing, clothing, transportation and recreation, education and reading also advanced in every city. Some major conlributors were higher costs for fuel oil, appliances, footwear, new cars, gasoline, sports and camping equipment and driving lessons.

In the 12 months from June 1973. consumer price index rose in every city, with increases as follows: St. John's $13.7 \%$; Halifax $10.5 \%$; Saint John $10.9 \%$; Quebec City $12.1 \%$; Montreal $11.9 \%$; Ottawa $11.6 \%$; Toronto $11.1 \%$; Thunder Bay $11.4 \%$; Winnipeg 11.5\%; SaskatoonRegina $9.4 \%$; Edmonton-Calgary $10.3 \%$; Vancouver 12.0\%.

For further information, onder the June 1974 issue of Prices and Price Indexes 162.002, 55//\$5.50).

## Retail Trade

Retail sales in May rose to $\$ 4.0$ billion, an increase of $20.2 \%$ from May 1973.

Year-to-year gains were registered in all trade groups, ranging from a high of $31.4 \%$ for fuel dealers to a low of $12.1 \%$ for variety stores.

All provinces recorded higher sales in the latest month with the largest increases in Alberla ( $24.0 \%$ ) and New Brunswick (23.1\%).

Seasonally adjusted, May retail sales showed an increase of $5.0 \%$ from the previous month to a level of $\$ 3.68$ billion with increases in fourteen of the eighteen trade groups.

For further information, order the May 1974 issue of Retail Trade (63-005, 40d/\$4), or contact B. Therioult (613-996.9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Staristics Conada, Ottawa KIA OV4.





## Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Peoducts <br> (1961=100)

The May index number of farm prices of agricultural products for Canada at 209.0 showed a decrease of $0.1 \%$ from 209.2 in April.

On a provincial basis, increases in farm prices were registered in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Alberta.

Over the twelve months from May 1973, the index has recorded an advance of $24.5 \%$.

For further information, order the May 1974 issue of Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products $162-003,15 \$ / \$ 1.50)$.

## Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales for May 1974 were estimated at $\$ 4,350.6$ million, up $38.8 \%$ from May 1973.

Significant changes from a year earlier included groceries and food specialties, up $16.0 \%$, and industrial and transportation equipment and supplies, up $29.7 \%$. Inventories were valued at $\$ 5,366.3$ million, up $23.3 \%$.

For further information, order the May 1974 issue of Wholesale Trade (63-008, 154/81.50).

## Housing

Housing starts in areas of 10,000 population and over totalled 19,880 in May, up from 15,800 the previous month.

The latest monthly figures brought residential construction to date in 1974 to 71,488 units, up $0.3 \%$ from the fivemonth total in 1973.

The May starts included, 9,178 single dwellings, 1,173 doubles, 993 row houses and 8,536 apartments.

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

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## Gold Production

Gold production was 145,496 troy ounces in May, down from 179,708 troy ounces in the same month of 1973.

This put 1974 production to date at 732,537 troy ounces, down from 833,968 in 1973.

For further information, order the May 1974 issue of Gold Production 126.004, 15\$/\$1.50), or contact Art Symons (613.992-0491), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Otrowa K1A OV6.

## Consumer Credit

Consumer credit outstanding on the books of selected credit holders reporting monthly totalled $\$ 14.74$ billion at the end of May, an increase of $16.7 \%$ from a year earlier.

Personal cash loans by chartered banks rose to $\$ 9.73$ billion in the latest month, up 20.5\% from May 1973.

Sales finance and consumer loan companies held $\$ 1.20$ billion balances of retail instalment sales paper (an expansion of $12.9 \%$ from a year earlier) and had $\$ 1.48$ billion outstanding of personal cash loans (up 10.0\%).

For further information, order the May 1974 issue of Consumer Credil (61.004, 308/83), or contact Consumer Credit Section (613.996.9278 or Telex 053.3585), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Otrawa KIA 0V6.

## Department Store Sales

Department store sales rose to $\$ 420.8$ million in May, up $\mathbf{2 4 . 9 \%}$ from $\$ 336.8$ million in May 1973.

Sales rose in 38 of the 39 departments, with only furs $(5.5 \%$ ) down from a year earlier. Largest increases were in plumbing, heating and building materials ( $54.1 \%$ ), television, radio and music ( $42.7 \%$ ) and najor appliances $(42.2 \%)$.

All provinces showed increased sales, ranging from a high of $31.9 \%$ for both Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan to a low of $17.5 \%$ for both New Brunswick and Manitoba. Sales were up $22.8 \%$ in Vancouver, $21.2 \%$ in Montreal, $20.8 \%$ in Toronto and $16.8 \%$ in Winnipeg.

Inventories held (at selling price) were valued at $\$ 1.36$ billion, up $26.1 \%$ from May 1973.

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## Unemployment Insurance

Claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act received $\$ 202$ million in May, $4 \%$ less than in the previous month but $13 \%$ more than a year earlier. The number of claimants $(825,000)$ was down $14 \%$ over the month but up $2 \%$ on the year.

The $\$ 74.34$ May average was $1 \%$ smaller than in April and $10 \%$ more than in May 1973.

The 172,000 claims received in May were $11 \%$ more than in April, and $10 \%$ more than in the previous May.

For further information, onder the May issue of Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act (73.001, 40d(\$4) or contact George Fincham (6/3-992-7461), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottewa K1A OVI.

## Restaurant Statistics

Restaurants in Canada had total estimated receipts of $\$ 143.1$ million in May, an increase of $11.6 \%$ from a year earlier. Sales were up in all provinces.

Restaurant receipts for May, by province and with percentage increases from May 1973:

- Ontario, $\$ 53.2$ million (11.9\%); Quebec, $\$ 45.9$ million (11.3\%); British Columbia, $\$ 16.6$ million ( $11.6 \%$ ); Alberta, $\$ 10.1$ million ( $13.0 \%$ ); Manitoba, $\$ 6.4$ million ( $12.2 \%$ ); Saskatchewan, $\$ 4.0$ million ( $12.2 \%$ ); New Brunswick, $\$ 2.8$ million ( $7.9 \%$ ); Nova Scotia, $\$ 2.7$ million ( $10.4 \%$ ); Newfoundland, $\$ 1.1$ million ( $9.5 \%$ ); and Prince Edward Island, $\$ 304,000(9.5 \%)$.
Cumulatively, restaurant receipts for the first five months of 1974 totalled an estimated $\$ 664.9$ million, up $10.8 \%$ from January-May 1973.

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## Farm Machinery Sales

Farm implement and equipment sales, including repair parts, totalled $\$ 252.9$ million for the first five months of 1974 , up $24.7 \%$ from $\$ 202.9$ million in 1973. Repair parts accounted for $\$ 51.5$ million of current sales.

For further information, onder the May 1974 issue of Farm /mplements and Equipment Sales $163-009,75 \mathrm{~d} / \$ 1.501$, or comact Mr. Y. Lebel (613.990.9307). Merchandising and Services Division, Statisfics Canada, Otrawa K/A OV4.

## Railway Operating Statistics

Six major railways operating in Canada reported revenue of $\$ 210.0$ million in May, $15.1 \%$ more than in May 1973. But expenses rose $17.1 \%$ to $\$ 205.6$ million and the resulting net income of $\$ 4.3$ million was down $36.4 \%$ from a year earlier.

In the first five months of 1974, revenues were $\$ 946.4$ million, $11.8 \%$ above 1973, and expenses were $\$ 936.9$ million, up $16.6 \%$. Net income of $\$ 9.4$ million was down $78.1 \%$.

For further information, order the May 1974 issue of Railway Operaring Statistics (52-003. $30 \$(\$ 3)$, or conract J.R. Slabtery (613-996-9276), Transportation and Communicarions Division, Statisfics Canada, Otrawa K/A OVS.

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[^0]:    For further information, order the May 1974 issue of Department Store Sales and Stocks $163-002,30 \$ / \$ 3)$, or contact Mr. B. Theriault (613-996-9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada. Ottawa KlA OV4.

[^1]:    For further information, order the May 1974 issue of Restaurant Statistics (63-011, 15/(\$1.50).

