

INFORMAT

Weekly Bulletin

April 11, 1975
CATALOGUE 11-002E

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

(1961=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada rose 0.5% to 178.9 in March from 178.0 in February. Except for a similar rise two months earlier, this was the smallest month-to-month advance since the autumn of 1973.

The latest increase was mainly due to higher retail prices for petroleum products, clothing, automobiles and tobacco items as well as to a rise in home ownership costs, all of which contributed to a 0.9% advance in the index for all items excluding food.

The food index declined by 0.3% in March — its first decrease since October 1973. Beef prices dropped a further 8.6% at the retail level and sugar prices also continued to decline, moving down by 2%.

Between March 1974 and March 1975, the All-Items Consumer Price Index advanced 11.3%.

During this period, the following component index increases were recorded:

- Tobacco and alcohol, up 13.0%; food, 12.6%; recreation, education and reading, 12.5%; transportation, 12.0%; health and personal care, 11.8%; housing, 10.3%; and clothing, 7.9%.

For further information, order the March 1975 issue of *Consumer Price Movements* (62-001, 30¢/\$3).

Labour Income

Total labour income for January was estimated at \$6.52 billion, up 15.4% from a year earlier.

Adjusted for seasonal variations, the January estimate of \$6.61 billion showed a decrease of 2.7% from the December level. Wages and salaries in the goods-producing industries declined 0.7% and those in the service-producing industries, partly because of the inclusion of large cost-of-living payments in the December estimate, dropped 3.8%.

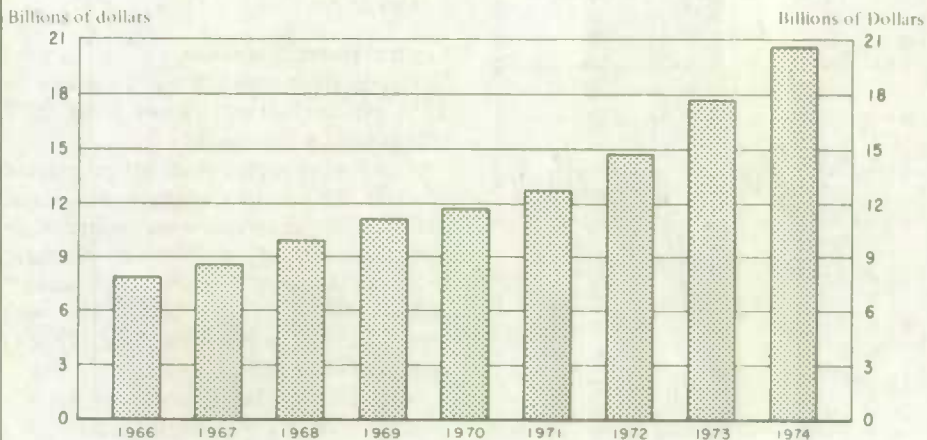
For further information, order the January 1975 issue of *Estimates of Labour Income* (72-005, 40¢/\$4), or contact Mrs. G. Gauthier (613-996-4147), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V2.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

| | | Latest Month | Previous Month | Change From Year Ago % |
|---|------|--------------|----------------|------------------------|
| EMPLOYMENT, INCOME | | | | |
| Average Weekly Earnings (\$) | Jan. | 191.92P | 185.20P | 14.4 |
| Labour Income (\$ million) | Jan. | 6,520P | 6,709P | 15.4 |
| Persons with Jobs (million) | Feb. | 8.95 | 8.87 | 2.5 |
| Unemployed | Feb. | 840,000 | 839,000 | 40.2 |
| INVENTORIES | | | | |
| Department Store (\$ million) | Jan. | 1,156 | 1,295 | 17.6 |
| Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million) | Jan. | 14,704P | 14,394P | 33.9 |
| Wholesale (\$ million) | Jan. | 6,116 | 5,938 | 28.6 |
| ORDERS | | | | |
| Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million) | Jan. | 6,485P | 6,726P | 5.3 |
| Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million) | Jan. | 10,297P | 10,277P | 26.6 |
| PRICES | | | | |
| Consumer Price Index (1961=100) | Feb. | 178.0 | 176.6 | 11.8 |
| Industry Selling Price Index (1961=100) | Feb. | 186.5 | 185.6P | 16.5 |
| Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100) | Feb. | 483.2 | 484.3P | 10.4 |
| CONSTRUCTION | | | | |
| Building Permits (\$ million) | Jan. | 494.3P | 494.3 | 9.7 |
| Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units) | Jan. | 7,133 | 7,133 | -47.2 |
| ENERGY | | | | |
| Coal Production (thousand tons) | Jan. | 2,269 | 2,269 | 11.6 |
| Electricity Generation (billion Kwh.) | Feb. | 23.9 | 50.5 | 1.0 |
| Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.) | Nov. | 289.9 | 3,112 | -1.7 |
| Petroleum Refining (million barrels) | Jan. | 53.4 | 53.4 | -5.3 |
| FOREIGN TRADE | | | | |
| Exports (\$ million) | Feb. | 2,424 | 5,108 | 12.1 |
| Imports (\$ million) | Feb. | 2,616 | 5,429 | 25.2 |
| PRODUCTION | | | | |
| Motor Vehicles (thousand units) | Feb. | 107.0 | 199.1 | -31.3 |
| Steel (ingots — thousand tons) | Feb. | 1,115 | 2,390 | 0.1 |
| SALES | | | | |
| Department Store Sales (\$ million) | Jan. | 323.9 | 323.9 | 9.6 |
| Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million) | Jan. | 6,465P | 6,465 | 10.7 |
| New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million) | Feb. | 477.8 | 849.1 | 2.5 |
| Retail Sales (\$ million) | Jan. | 3,394 | 3,394 | 15.7 |
| Wholesale Sales (\$ million) | Jan. | 3,059 | 3,059 | 6.6 |

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

Consumer Credit Balances Outstanding, Selected Holders. Year-end 1966-1974



Source: Consumer Credit (61-004)

New Motor Vehicle Sales

Retail sales of new motor vehicles in February reached 91,020 units, up 1.2% from a year earlier. Total sales value increased 12.8% to \$477.8 million.

Sales of passenger cars produced in Canada and the United States rose 3.1% to 58,557 units while those of overseas-manufactured automobiles jumped 17.6% to 11,623 units.

Commercial vehicle sales in February dropped 10.6% from a year earlier to 20,840 units; included were 19,747 manufactured in Canada and the United States (down 9.8%) and 1,093 manufactured overseas (down 22.8%).

For the first two months of 1975, total sales reached 164,439 units with an accumulated value of \$849.1 million. This represents a decrease of 7.8% in units but an increase of 2.5% in value compared with sales for January-February 1974.

For further information, order the February 1975 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007, 30¢/\$3).

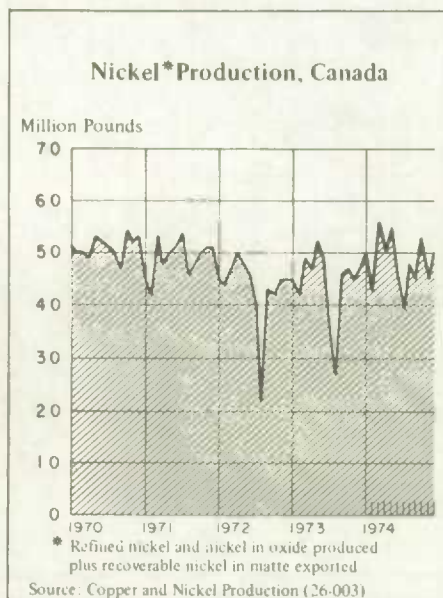
Department Store Sales and Stocks

Department store sales rose to \$323.9 million in January, an increase of 9.6% from \$295.5 million in January 1974.

All provinces except Manitoba (-0.8%) reported increased sales over January 1974 with a high of 92.4% for Prince Edward Island. Sales rose 8.8% in Toronto, 7.2% in Montreal and 3.6% in Vancouver but decreased 1.2% in Winnipeg.

Inventories held in January (at selling price) were valued at \$1.16 billion, up 17.6% from the corresponding month in 1974.

For further information, order the January 1975 issue of *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (63-002, 30¢/\$3).



THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities, March

Employment, Earnings and Hours, February

Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, February

Real Domestic Product, February

Retail Sales, February

Summary of Foreign Trade, March

Aggregate Productivity Measures, 1970-73

Output per man-hour for all commercial industries rose 2.4% in 1973 — the smallest increase since 1967. The average annual rate of growth has been 4.3% since 1961.

Unit labour cost rose 4.7% in 1973, reflecting a 12.3% increase in labour compensation and a 7.2% increase in output.

These indexes revise and update data presented in *Aggregate Productivity Measures, 1946-1972* (14-201, \$1.05). For indexes on other industry groupings, contact Mrs. A.A. Brownlee (613-995-0631), Input-Output Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Help-Wanted Index

(1961=100)

The seasonally-adjusted Help-Wanted Index dropped to 158 in the first quarter of 1975, down 13% from the previous quarter. Advances had been recorded in the opening quarters of the four preceding years.

Compared with the first quarter of 1974, the index was down 16%.

For data back to 1962 see the January 17, 1975 issue of *The Statistics Canada Daily*, or contact George Fincham (613-992-7461), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Electric Power Statistics

Net generation rose 0.8% in February to 23.9 billion kilowatt hours from 23.7 billion kwh. a year earlier.

There were increases in net generation in eight regions of Canada in the latest month while decreases were registered in New Brunswick (-14.1%), Ontario (-8.5%), Quebec (-4.0%) and Saskatchewan (-2.1%). The largest increases were recorded in Newfoundland (28.0%) and the Yukon (27.8%).

Hydro generation increased 4.0%; thermal production decreased 8.0%.

For further information, order the February 1975 issue of *Electric Power Statistics* (57-001, 30¢/\$3).

Industry Selling Price Index:

Manufacturing

(1961=100)

The industry selling price index for total manufacturing rose to 186.5 in February, an increase of 0.5% from the January level and up 16.5% from a year earlier.

The wood products group index rose 2.5% in the latest month, halting a recent downward trend in these prices. Price increases were particularly evident in the sawmills and planing mills industry (up 4.0%).

The foods and beverages group index declined for the third successive month, with decreases in the slaughtering and meat-packing industry (-4.1%), flour mills (-2.2%) and in the miscellaneous food manufacturers group (-1.5%).

Over the twelve months from February 1974, the largest price increases were shown by the following component group indexes:

- Paper and allied industries, 30.9%; chemical and chemical products industries, 30.3%; non-metallic mineral products industries, 21.2%; petroleum and coal products industries, 20.2%; and rubber products industries, 18.4%.

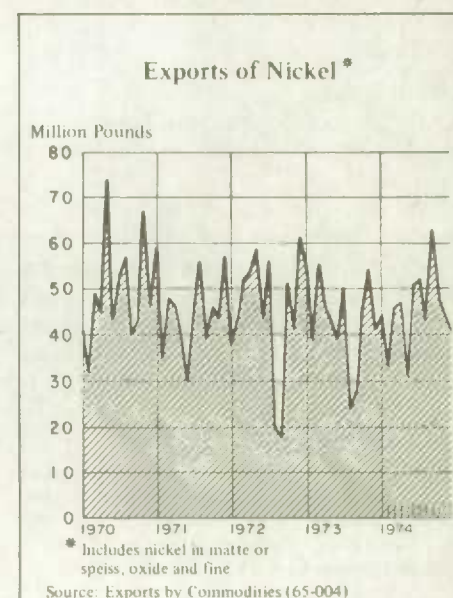
For further information, order the February 1975 issue of *Prices and Price Indexes* (62-002, 55¢/\$5.50).

Iron Ore

Canadian mines shipped 1.89 million tons of iron ore in February, an increase of 5.4% from 1.80 million tons a year earlier.

Cumulatively, output for the first two months of 1975 totalled 4.70 million tons, up 16.9% from 4.02 million tons in January-February 1974.

For further information, order the February 1975 issue of *Iron Ore* (26-005, 15¢/\$1.50).



The Labour Force

Although employment increased in March, unemployment showed an even-larger rise and Canada's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate moved up to 7.2% from 6.8% in February.

Last month the unemployment rate for men 25 years of age and over rose to 5.4% from 5.2% in February, while for women 25 and over it increased to 4.6% from 4.1%. For persons aged 14-24, the unemployment rate climbed to 12.7% from 12.1%.

The seasonally-adjusted participation rate for Canada — percentage of the population 14 and over included in the labour force — moved up to 59.1% from 58.9% a month earlier.

On an actual basis, the number of persons employed increased to 8.95 million in March from 8.87 million in February and was up from 8.73 million in March 1974.

The actual unemployment total was 840,000 for 8.6% of the 9.79 million included in the labour force last month. By province, unemployment rates were: Newfoundland, 24.1%; New Brunswick, 15.8%; Quebec, 10.8%; Nova Scotia, 10.0%; British Columbia, 9.3%; Ontario, 7.3%; Manitoba, 4.3%; Alberta, 4.2%; and Saskatchewan, 3.5%.

For further information, order the March 1975 issue of the *Labour Force* (71-001, \$54/\$5.50).

General Wholesale Index

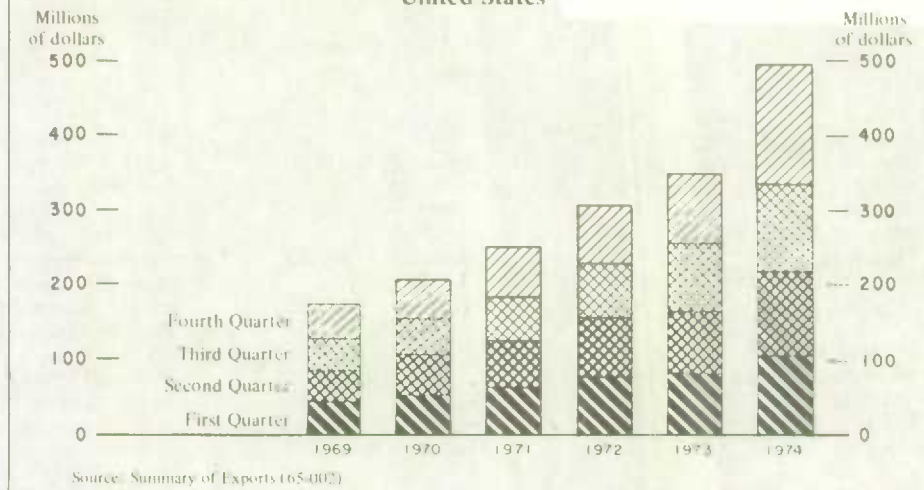
(1935-39=100)

The general wholesale price index declined 0.2% in February to 483.2 from 484.3 (revised) in January to stand 10.4% higher than the February 1974 level of 437.8. Three of the eight major groups decreased, while five showed increases.

The vegetable products group index dropped 3.4% in February, due mainly to price decreases for potatoes (-20.2%), grains (-10.0%), fresh fruits (-5.5%), livestock and poultry feeds (-3.8%) and vegetable oil products (-3.6%). The animal products group decreased 2.6%, reflecting lower prices for livestock (-8.4%), fresh meats (-6.6%), hides and skins (-6.3%), leather (-3.8%) and eggs (-3.8%). The textile products group edged down 0.1%.

The iron products group rose 2.8% in February due to price increases for wire (7.4%), rolling mill products (4.7%) and iron foundries products and steel pipe and tubing (2.7%). Other index increases were shown by: non-metallic minerals, up 1.9%; wood products, up 1.8%; non-ferrous metals, up 1.7%; and chemical products, up 1.4%.

Canadian Exports of Natural Gas to the United States



Farm Cash Receipts

Farmers' cash receipts from farming operations in all provinces except Newfoundland totalled an estimated \$2.51 billion in the first two months of 1975, up 73.3% from \$1.45 billion in January-February 1974.

Total payments made to farmers in the latest period, by province and with year-earlier totals in brackets:

- Saskatchewan, \$1.12 billion (\$363.9 million); Alberta, \$560.4 million (\$302.5 million); Ontario, \$348.5 million (\$388.3 million); Manitoba, \$240.7 million (\$143.4 million); Quebec, \$152.7 million (\$142.8 million); British Columbia, \$50.7 million (\$50.8 million); Nova Scotia, \$16.7 million (\$16.2 million); New Brunswick, \$13.4 million (\$20.1 million); and Prince Edward Island, \$10.5 million (\$19.9 million).

For further information, order the January-February 1975 issue of *Farm Cash Receipts* (21-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact E.S. Boyko (613-994-9876), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

Railway Operating Statistics

Operating revenues of the six major railways in Canada totalled \$191.4 million in January, up 11.2% from a year earlier. However, expenses jumped 20.7% to \$206.5 million, producing a deficit of \$15.1 million that compared with net income of \$1.0 million in January 1974.

Revenue freight ton-miles rose 0.9% to 9.47 billion in the latest month, while passenger-miles decreased 11.2% to 93.9 million.

For further information, order the January 1975 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.

Non-Residential Building Construction Input Price Index

(1961=100)

The non-residential building construction input price index for Canada rose to 241.4 in February, an increase of 0.8% from the January level and up 12.3% from a year earlier.

The materials component of the total index increased 11.0% over the twelve months from February 1974; the labour element moved up 13.3%.

Prices of concrete products used in non-residential building construction climbed 22.4% during this period, steel and metal work costs rose 22.0%, electrical equipment 10.2%, plumbing, heating and other equipment 8.5% and other materials 12.3%. Prices of lumber and lumber products fell 12.2%.

For further information, order the February 1975 issue of *Construction Price Statistics, Monthly Bulletin* (62-007, \$4 per year), or contact L.J. Seary (613-994-5807), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

Telephone Industry Statistics

Canadian telephone systems reported net operating revenue of \$60.5 million in January, a decrease of 1.9% from January 1974.

Gross operating revenues of the thirteen major telephone companies rose 15.1% to \$212.1 million in the latest month; operating expenses jumped 23.7% to \$151.6 million.

Construction expenditures of these firms at \$117.8 million in January showed an increase of 43.0% from a year earlier.

For further information, order *Communications Service Bulletin* (56-001, \$1.40 per year), Vol. 5, No. 7, *Monthly Telephone Statistics*, January 1975.



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THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED APRIL 3 - 9

| | Cata- logue | Price per issue/year | | Cata- logue | Price per issue/year |
|---|----------------|-------------------------|--|----------------|-------------------------|
| AGRICULTURE | | | | | |
| Oilseeds Review, March 1975 | 22-006 | \$1.05/\$4.20 | | | |
| Stocks of Dairy and Frozen Poultry Products, March 1975 | 32-009 | 30¢/\$3 | | | |
| Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, March 1975 | 32-012 | 30¢/\$3 | | | |
| Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, March 1, 1975 | 32-010 | 30¢/\$3 | | | |
| CONSTRUCTION | | | | | |
| Fixed Capital Flows and Stocks, 1970-1974 | 13-211 | \$1.40 | | | |
| Private and Public Investment in Canada, Outlook 1975 | 61-205 | \$1.05 | | | |
| EXTERNAL TRADE | | | | | |
| Imports by Countries, January-December 1974 | 65-006 | \$1.40/\$5.60 | | | |
| HEALTH | | | | | |
| Tuberculosis Statistics, 1973 | 82-212 | \$2.10 | | | |
| LABOUR | | | | | |
| Estimates of Labour Income, December 1974 | 72-005 | 40¢/\$4 | | | |
| MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES | | | | | |
| Asbestos, February 1975 | 26-001 | 15¢/\$1.50 | | | |
| Gas Utilities, October 1974 | 55-002 | 30¢/\$3 | | | |
| Hardboard, February 1975 | 36-001 | 15¢/\$1.50 | | | |
| Iron Castings and Cast Iron Pipe and Fittings, January 1975 | 41-004 | 15¢/\$1.50 | | | |
| Iron Ore, February 1975 | 26-005 | 15¢/\$1.50 | | | |
| Mineral Wool, February 1975 | 44-004 | 15¢/\$1.50 | | | |
| Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics, January 1975 | 24-002 | 40¢/\$4 | | | |
| Pack, Shipments and Stocks of Selected Canned Fruits and Vegetables, December 1974 | 32-011 | 30¢/\$3 | | | |
| Revisions to the Industrial Commodity Classification, February 1975 | 12-541 | N/C | | | |
| Selected Meat and Meat Preparations, January 1975 | 32-020 | 15¢/\$1.50 | | | |
| Shipments of Prepared Stock and Poultry Feeds, January 1975 | 32-004 | 40¢/\$4 | | | |
| Soaps and Synthetic Detergents, January 1975 | 46-003 | 15¢/\$1.50 | | | |
| PRELIMINARY BULLETINS | | | | | |
| 1973 Census of Manufactures - Abrasives Manufacturers | 44-202-p | | | | |
| Cordage and Twine Industry | 34-203-p | | | | |
| Dental Laboratories | 47-206-p | | | | |
| Lime Manufacturers | 44-209-p | | | | |
| Manufacturers of Pigments and Dry Colours | 46-219-p | \$4.90 | | | |
| Typewriter Supplies Manufacturers | 47-205-p | for series | | | |
| SERVICE BULLETINS | | | | | |
| Energy Statistics - Vol. 10, No. 7, Fuel and Electricity Purchased and Consumed by Manufacturing Industries | | | | | |
| | | | by Major Group, by Region, 1972; Vol. 10, No. 9, Electric Power Statistics, Volume II, 1973; Vol. 10, No. 11, Crude Oil Requirements, 1974-1975; Vol. 10, No. 12, Retail Gasoline Statistics by Metropolitan Area, 4th Quarter 1974; Vol. 10, No. 13, Salient Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Statistics, December 1974 | 57-002 | \$4.20 per year |
| | | | Fabricated Metal Products - Vol. 4, No. 2, Floor Tiles, February 1975; Vol. 4, No. 5, Builders and Shelf Hardware, January 1975; Vol. 4, No. 6, Oil Filters and Cartridges, February 1975; Vol. 4, No. 7, Builders and Shelf Hardware, February 1975 | 41-009 | \$2.80 per year |
| | | | Fish and Fish Products - Advance Release of Fish Landings, Inland Fisheries: October to December 1974, Vol. 4, No. 12; January 1975, Vol. 4, No. 15; February 1975: British Columbia, Vol. 4, No. 19; Maritimes, Vol. 4, No. 16; Newfoundland, February 1975, Vol. 4, No. 17; Quebec, Vol. 4, No. 22; Fish Freezings and Stocks, February 1975: British Columbia, Vol. 4, No. 18; Maritimes, Vol. 4, No. 20; Newfoundland, Vol. 4, No. 11; Ontario and Prairies, Vol. 4, No. 14; Quebec, Vol. 4, No. 13 | 24-003 | \$1.40 per year |
| | | | Phonograph Records and Pre-Recorded Tapes - Vol. 4, No. 1, Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-Recorded Tapes in Canada, January 1975 | 47-004 | \$1.40 per year |
| | | | Selected Dairy By-Products - Vol. 4, No. 3, Production and Inventory of Instant Dry Skim Milk Powder, February 1975; Vol. 4, No. 4, Production and Inventory of Process Cheese, February 1975 | 32-024 | \$1.40 per year |
| | | | Tobacco and Tobacco Products - Vol. 4, No. 3, Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, February 1975 | 32-022 | \$1.40 per year |
| | | | Vinyl-Asbestos Floor Tile - Vol. 4, No. 2, Floor Tiles, February 1975 | 47-001 | \$1.40 per year |
| MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES | | | | | |
| | | | Consumer Credit, January 1975 | 61-004 | 30¢/\$3 |
| | | | Restaurant Statistics, February 1975 | 63-011 | 15¢/\$1.50 |
| PRICES | | | | | |
| | | | Construction Price Statistics, Monthly Bulletin, February-March 1975 | 62-007 | 40¢/\$4 |
| SERVICE BULLETIN | | | | | |
| | | | Retail Prices and Living Costs - Vol. 4, No. 4, A Note on the Current Annual Rate of Change of the Consumer Price Index, February 1975 | 62-005 | \$2.80 per year |