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# INFORMAT

## Weekly Bulletin

### Department Store Sales and Stocks

Department store sales rose to \$384.1 million in March, an increase of 10.4% from \$347.8 million in March 1974.

Sales rose in 33 of the 40 departments in the latest month with the largest gains recorded by food and kindred products (24.1%) and sporting goods and luggage (21.5%).

All provinces except Manitoba (-4.0%) and British Columbia (-0.7%) reported increased sales over March 1974 with a high of 61.5% for Prince Edward Island. Sales were up 20.8% in Montreal, 9.3% in Toronto and 0.4% in Vancouver; Winnipeg recorded a 4.2% decrease in sales.

Inventories held in March (at selling price) were valued at \$1.31 billion, up 9.3% from a year earlier.

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

### Consumer Credit

Consumer credit outstanding on the books of selected credit holders reporting monthly reached \$16.30 billion at the end of March, an increase of 15.1% from a year earlier.

Outstanding balances held by these credit grantors in the latest month, with percentage changes from March 1974:

- Chartered banks' personal loans, \$11.12 billion (up 20.0%);
- Sales finance and consumer companies'
  - small loans, \$279 million (-14.4%);
  - large loans, \$1.49 billion (up 3.8%);
  - retail instalment sales paper, \$1.13 billion (-1.7%).
- Life insurance companies' policy loans, \$1.09 billion (up 20.2%);
- Department stores and furniture, television, radio and household appliances stores, \$1.16 billion (up 9.9%);
- Quebec savings banks' personal loans, \$46 million (up 24.3%).

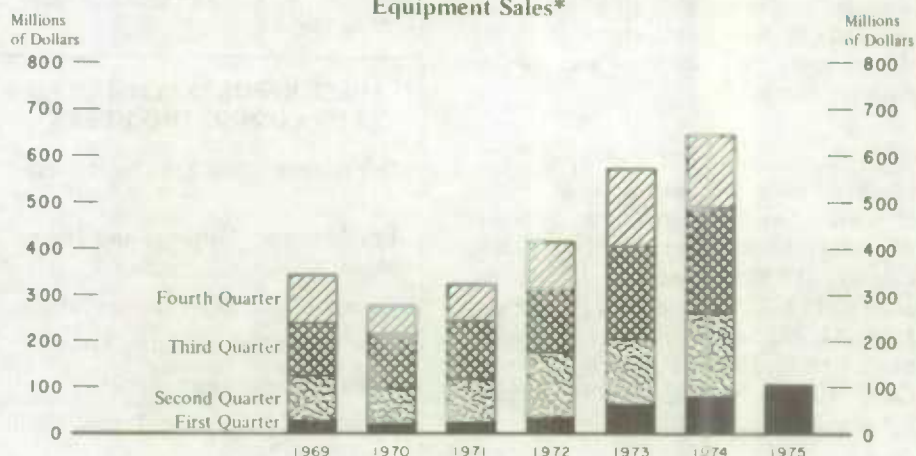
For further information, order the March 1975 issue of *Consumer Credit* (61-004, 30¢/\$3), or contact *Consumer Credit Section* (613-996-9278 or Telex 053-3585), *Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6*.

### LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

		Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
<b>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</b>				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Feb.	193.41P	191.54P	14.4
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.	6,586P	6,563P	15.5
Persons with Jobs (million)	Apr.	9.01	8.95	1.5
Unemployed	Apr.	795,000	840,000	40.0
<b>INVENTORIES</b>				
Department Store (\$ million)	Mar.*	1,315	1,273	9.3
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb.	14,750P	14,729P	30.9
Wholesale (\$ million)	Mar.*	6,348	6,207	24.3
<b>ORDERS</b>				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	6,342P	6,278P	3.5
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	10,147P	10,258P	21.8
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1961=100)	Apr.	179.8	178.9	11.1
Industry Selling Price Index (1961=100)	Mar.	187.0	187.0P	14.9
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Mar.	477.6	483.3P	7.2
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Building Permits (\$ million)	Feb.	470.3P	Year-to-date 977.5	-1.2
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	Mar.	6,261	18,367	-48.7
<b>ENERGY</b>				
Coal Production (thousand tons)	Feb.	2,177	4,447	12.6
Electricity Generation (billion Kwh.)	Mar.	24.9	75.4	0.3
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Jan.	308.8	308.8	-3.3
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Feb.	48.5	101.9	-6.2
<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b>				
Exports (\$ million)	Mar.	2,431	7,560	7.4
Imports (\$ million)	Mar.	2,822	8,246	20.9
<b>PRODUCTION</b>				
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Mar.	125.6	324.7	-25.5
Steel (ingots - thousand tons)	Mar.	1,248	3,638	0.4
<b>SALES</b>				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	384.1	1,015	10.1
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.	6,453P	12,759	8.3
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	544.1	1,393	5.0
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	3,263	6,544	13.1
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Mar.*	3,644	9,875	4.9

Statistics are not seasonally adjusted. P - preliminary. P - revised. \* - new this week.

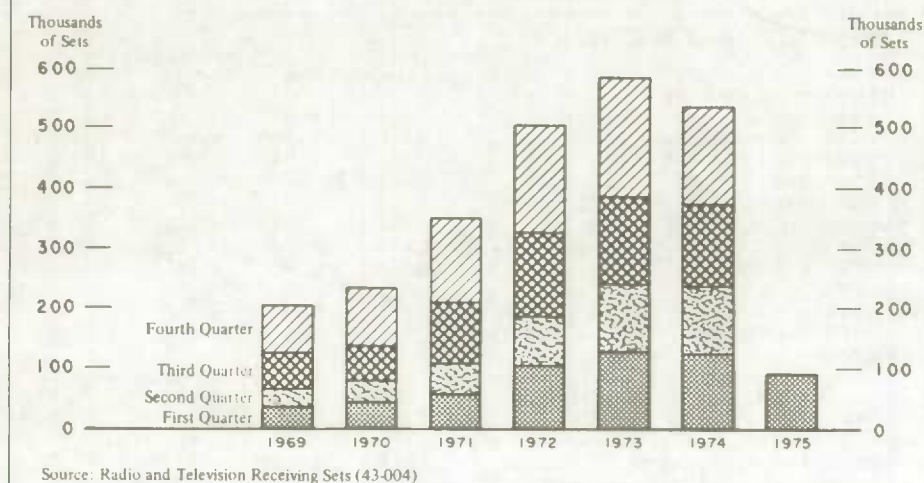
### Farm Implement and Equipment Sales\*



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

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

### Manufacturers' Sales of 'Made-in-Canada' Colour Television Sets



### Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities

Consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities in April with increases ranging from 0.3% in Quebec, Ottawa and Regina to 0.9% in Vancouver.

Transportation indexes increased in all 14 centres, due largely to higher automobile operating costs. Health and personal care components advanced in all regional cities mainly as a result of increased dental care fees. Clothing indexes increased across the country with the exception of Ontario, where a reduction in provincial sales tax resulted in lower prices. The housing component rose in 12 cities and declined in two, reflecting increased shelter costs and scattered increases in electricity rates.

Between April 1974 and April 1975, consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities, with increases as follows: Winnipeg, 12.9%; Thunder Bay, 11.8%; Calgary, 11.5%; Toronto, 11.5%; St. John's, 11.5%; Vancouver, 11.5%; Saint John, 11.3%; Saskatoon, 11.1%; Edmonton, 10.8%; Montreal, 10.8%; Quebec City, 10.6%; Regina, 10.0%; Halifax, 9.9%; and Ottawa, 9.2%.

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

### Telephone Industry Statistics

Canadian telephone systems reported net operating revenue of \$64.5 million in March, an increase of 0.6% from March 1974.

Gross operating revenues of the thirteen major telephone companies rose 15.3% to \$219.3 million in the latest month; operating expenses jumped 22.7% to \$154.8 million.

Construction expenditures of these firms at \$139.0 million in March 1975 showed an increase of 20.2% from a year earlier.

For further information, order *Communications Service Bulletin* (56-001, \$1.40 per year), Vol. 5, No. 13, *Monthly Telephone Statistics*, March 1975.

### THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Department Store Sales by Regions, April

Employment, Earnings and Hours, March

Estimates of Labour Income, March

New Motor Vehicle Sales, April

Railway Carloadings, April

Summary of Foreign Trade, April

### Real Domestic Product

(1961=100)

Canada's seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product decreased 1.0% in March to 200.8 from the February level of 202.8 with most of the decline originating in the transportation, storage and communication and mining sectors.

In transportation (-6.2%), a stevedoring strike on the West Coast reduced output of water transport and, indirectly, railway transport. The commodities contributing most to the railway transport decline were manufactured goods, mineral products and wheat. In storage (-7.7%), output of grain elevators also fell. In communications (-0.2%), labour disputes accounted for a decrease in output in the post office.

In mining, down 6.8% in March, declines were widespread. Lower exports were recorded for a number of mineral products including copper, zinc, crude petroleum and asbestos.

The seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product declined 0.7% in the first quarter of 1975 following a decrease of 0.9% in the preceding quarter.

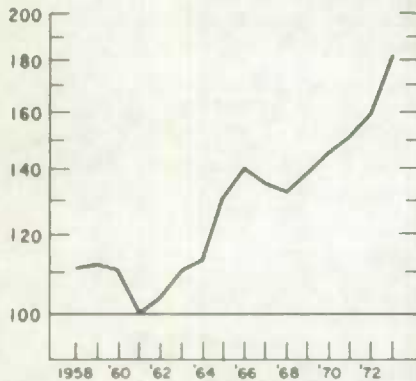
Output of all divisions in the goods-producing industries component decreased except for agriculture. Within manufacturing (-2.9%), production declines were mainly in durable goods — motor vehicles and parts, major appliances, household radios and television sets, primary metals and furniture and fixtures.

For further information, order the March 1975 issue of *Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry* (61-005, 40¢/\$4), or contact R.W. Collins (613-995-0443), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.



### Highway Construction Price Index Seven Province Composite

(1961=100)



Source: Construction Price Statistics  
Monthly Bulletin (62-007)

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### Railway Operating Statistics

Operating revenues of the six major railways in Canada totalled \$211.2 million in March, up 7.8% from a year earlier. But expenses jumped 14.1% to \$223.3 million, producing a deficit for the month of \$12.1 million that contrasted with net income of \$150,287 in March 1974.

Revenue freight ton-miles fell 14.5% to 9.64 billion in the latest month; passenger-miles — the total distance travelled by all railway passengers — decreased 12.9% to 132.2 million.

During the first quarter of 1975, railway revenues rose 10.2% from the year-earlier period to \$592.0 million while expenses showed a sharp 18.0% increase to \$634.3 million. The net operating deficit of \$42.3 million for the latest three months compared with a deficit of \$451,229 in January-March 1974.

For further information, order the March 1975 issue of *Railway Operating Statistics* (52-003, 30¢/\$3).

### Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in March were estimated at \$3.64 billion, up 3.2% from March 1974.

Notable sales changes from a year earlier included groceries and food specialties, up 17.8%, and industrial and transportation equipment and supplies, up 37.0%.

Wholesale inventories were valued at \$6.35 billion in the latest month, an increase of 24.3% over March of last year.

For further information, order the March 1975 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, 15¢/\$1.50).

### Unemployment Insurance Payments

Net benefit paid to claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act reached \$298 million in March, an increase of 34% from \$221 million a year earlier. The average weekly payment was up 12% to \$84.41 from \$75.27.

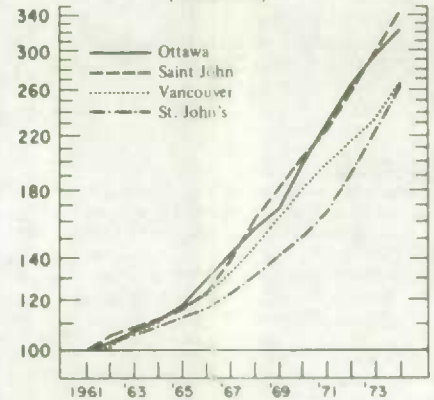
Initial and renewal claims received in March numbered 191,000, up 20% from the March 1974 total of 159,000.

For the first three months of 1975, net payments under the act amounted to \$892 million, an increase of 29% from the \$690 million disbursed in January-March 1974.

For further information, order the March 1975 issue of *Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (73-001, 40¢/\$4).

### Union Wage Rate Indexes Weighted Average for Main Construction Trades

(1961=100)



Source: Construction Price Statistics  
Monthly Bulletin (62-007)

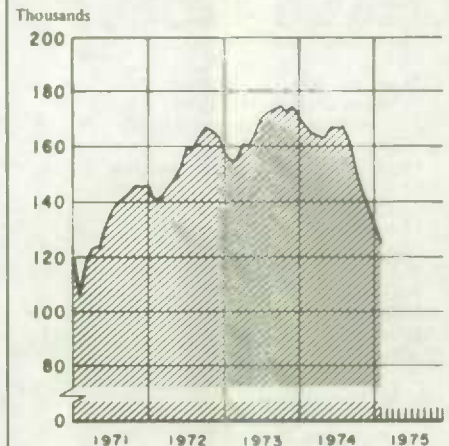
### Federal Government Expenditures on Scientific Activities, 1975-76

Federal government departments estimate spending in 1975-76 of \$1.2 billion for activities in the natural sciences and technology and an additional \$351 million in the human sciences. In the 1974-75 fiscal year, the allocation was \$1.1 billion for natural sciences and technology and \$301 million for human sciences.

For further information, contact Jim Topham (613-995-9692), Science Statistics Section, Education, Science and Culture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Dwelling Units Under Construction

(in centres 10,000 population and over)



Source: Housing Starts and Completions (64-002)



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	Cata- logue	Price per issue/year		Cata- logue	Price per issue/year
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Index Number of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, March 1975	62-003	15¢/\$1.50	Specified Chemicals, March 1975	46-002	15¢/\$1.50
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The Wheat Review, April 1975	22-005	55¢/\$5.50			
<b>BUSINESS FINANCE</b>					
Industrial Corporations, Financial Statistics, First Quarter 1975 (Preliminary Data)	61-003	N/C	<b>PRELIMINARY BULLETINS</b>		
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			Sound Recording and Musical Instrument Manufacturers	47-205-p-4	
			Textile Dyeing and Finishing Plants	34-210-p-4	
			Toys and Games Manufacturers	47-204-p-2	
			Wineries	32-207-p	
			Wire and Wire Products Manufac- turers	41-216-p	\$4.90 for series
<b>CENSUS</b>					
Income of Individuals - Employment Income by Sex, Occupation and Schooling, for Canada, 1971 Census of Canada	94-768	70¢	<b>SERVICE BULLETINS</b>		
Industries by Sex, Showing Age, Marital Status, Level of School- ing and Class of Worker, for Canada, 1971 Census of Canada	94-749	70¢	Energy Statistics - Vol. 10, No. 18, Motor Gasoline - Sale Through Retail Pump Outlets, 1974; Heavy Fuel Oil (Nos. 4, 5 and 6) - Net Sales of Low Sulphur Product, 1974	57-002	\$4.20 per year
Labour Force Activity - Work Experience, Weeks Worked in 1970 by Selected Characteristics, for Canada and Provinces, 1971 Census of Canada	94-779	70¢	Fish and Fish Products - Vol. 4, No. 33, Advance Release of Fish Landings (Inland Fisheries), February 1975	24-003	\$1.40 per year
			Fruit and Vegetable Preservation - Vol. 4, No. 3, 1975 Pack of Frozen Fruits and Vegetables as Reported up to the End of March 1975	32-023	\$1.40 per year
			Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes - Vol. 4, No. 3, Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada, March 1975	47-004	\$1.40 per year
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Building Permits, February 1975	64-001	70¢/\$7	<b>MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES</b>		
			Sales Financing, February 1975	63-013	30¢/\$3
<b>EXTERNAL TRADE</b>					
Summary of External Trade, March 1975	65-001	40¢/\$4	<b>TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
			Railway Carloadings, March 1975	52-001	30¢/\$3
<b>FINANCIAL FLOWS AND MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES</b>					
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Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, February 1975	66-001	70¢/\$7	Communications - Vol. 5, No. 13, Monthly Telephone Statistics, March 1975	56-001	\$1.40 per year
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Employment, Earnings and Hours, November 1974	72-002	55¢/\$5.50			
Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, February 1975	73-001	40¢/\$4			
<b>MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES</b>					
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Fruit and Vegetable Preparations, Quarter Ended March 31, 1975	32-017	35¢/\$1.40			
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