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# INFORMAT

## Weekly Bulletin

### Consumer Price Index (CPI)

(1961=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada rose 0.5% to 179.8 in April from 178.9 in March, extending the trend of relatively low monthly rates of increase experienced since the beginning of 1975.

Nearly two-fifths of the over-all advance in the latest month was due to higher prices for private and public transportation. An increase of 0.5% in the food index accounted for another one-quarter. The index for all items excluding food also moved up 0.5%, registering its smallest monthly increase since February 1974, partly because of the effect of the Ontario sales tax reduction.

Reversing its decline of the preceding month, the food index increased 0.5% in April, mainly as a result of higher prices for dairy products — fresh milk and butter in particular.

Between April 1974 and April 1975, the All-Items Consumer Price Index advanced 11.1%.

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

- Food, 13.0%; transportation, 12.2%; tobacco and alcohol, 11.7%; recreation, education and reading, 11.4%; health and personal care, 11.3%; housing, 10.2%; and clothing, 6.8%.

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

### International Travel

Preliminary statistics for March show 1.8 million United States visitors entered Canada, up 3.3% from March 1974. Canadian resident travellers returning from visits to the U.S. increased by 23.4% to 2.6 million.

Visitors entering Canada from countries other than the U.S. rose 23.9% to 56,000 in the latest month. Residents of Canada returning from abroad numbered 185,000, down 2.5% from March 1974.

For further information, order the March 1975 issue of *Travel Between Canada and Other Countries* (66-001, 55¢/\$5.50), or contact M.W. Valiquette (613-995-0847), International Travel Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z8.

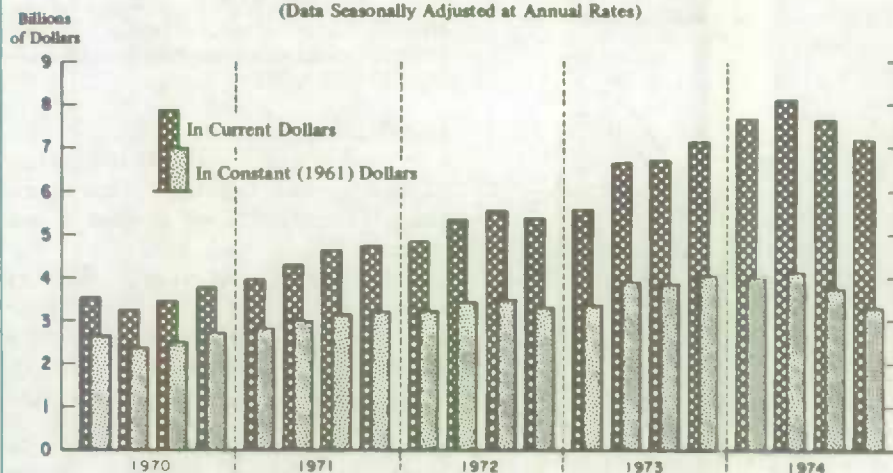
### LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

		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)	Mar.	8.95	8.87	2.5
Unemployed	Mar.	840,000	839,000	40.2
<b>INVENTORIES</b>				
Department Store (\$ million)	Feb.	1,273	1,156	14.9
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb.	14,750P	14,729P	30.9
Wholesale (\$ million)	Feb.	6,207	6,116	23.8
<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 964.5P	-2.5
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb.	4,973	12,106	-46.3
<b>ENERGY</b>				
Coal Production (thousand tons)	Feb.	2,177	4,447	12.6
Electricity Generation (billion Kwh.)	Feb.	23.9	50.5	0.9
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Dec.*	309.4	3,426	-1.9
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.	3,288	6,633	13.9
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Feb.	3,173	6,232	5.9

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

### Residential Construction Expenditures

(Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates)



Source: National Income and Expenditure Accounts (13-001)

### New Motor Vehicle Sales

Retail sales of new motor vehicles in March totalled 101,429 units, down 4.9% from a year earlier. Total sales value increased 9.1% to \$544.1 million.

Sales of passenger cars produced in Canada and the United States declined 6.0% to 63,399 units while those of overseas-manufactured automobiles rose 0.7% to 11,935 units.

Commercial vehicle sales in March dropped 4.5% from a year earlier to 26,095 units; included were 24,700 manufactured in Canada and the U.S. (down 3.7%) and 1,395 manufactured overseas (down 17.6%).

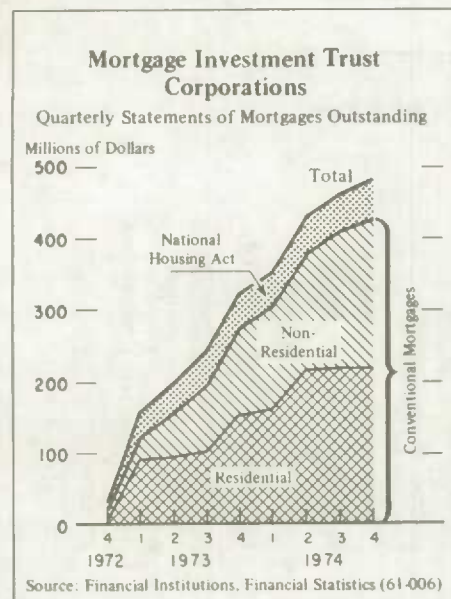
For the first three months of 1975, total sales reached 265,868 units with an accumulated value of \$1.39 billion. This represents a decrease of 6.7% in units but an increase of 5.0% in value compared with sales for January-March 1974.

For further information, order the March 1975 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.

### Gas Utilities

Canadian consumers purchased 149.3 billion cubic feet of natural gas in January, down 3.0% from a year earlier. Exports decreased 6.2% to 80.8 billion cubic feet.

For further information, order the January 1975 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, 30¢/\$3), or contact G.R. Kitchen (613-992-4021), Energy and Minerals Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.



### THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Building Permits, March

Consumer Credit, March

Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, March

Retail Trade, March

Summary of Foreign Trade, April

The Labour Force, April

### Major Appliance Sales

Freezer sales were higher, but Canadian manufacturer's domestic sales in March of other major appliances ran well under year-earlier levels.

Major appliance sales recorded by these manufacturers in the latest month, with percentage changes from March 1974 in brackets:

- Refrigerators, 37,001 (- 39.7%); home and farm freezers, 39,138 (up 94.1%).
- Electric stoves and ranges, 33,693 (- 36.5%).
- Automatic washing machines, 18,941 (- 49.6%); electric and gas clothes dryers, 17,514 (- 47.5%).
- Television sets, 40,535 (- 23.9%).

Manufacturers' sales in March of 32,604 Canadian-made colour television sets represented a drop of 24.4% from a year earlier; black-and-white set sales fell 21.5% to 7,931 units.

For further information, order the March 1975 issue of: *Domestic Refrigerators and Freezers* (43-001, 15¢/\$1.50); *Stoves and Furnaces* (41-005, 30¢/\$3); *Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers* (43-002, 15¢/\$1.50); and *Radio and Television Receiving Sets* (43-004, 30¢/\$3).

### Iron Ore Shipments

Canadian mines shipped 2.41 million tons of iron ore in March, more than double the 1.12 million tons shipped a year earlier.

Cumulatively, output for the first three months of 1975 totalled 6.73 million tons, up 30.9% from 5.14 million tons in January-March 1974.

For further information, order the March 1975 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.

### Industry Selling Price Index: Manufacturing

(1961=100)

The industry selling price index for total manufacturing was 187.0 in March, unchanged from the (revised) February level. But it stood 14.9% higher than a year earlier.

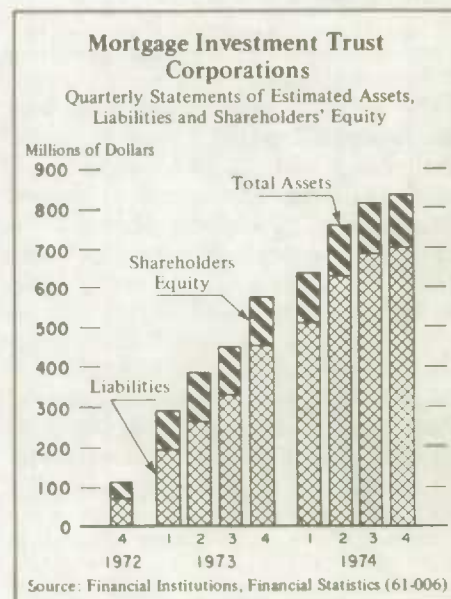
The petroleum and coal products group index rose 5.0% in the latest month, reflecting a 5.1% price hike by petroleum refiners. The wood products group advanced 1.3%, due mainly to a 1.8% increase in the sawmills and planing mills industry.

The food and beverages group index dropped 1.7%, recording its fourth successive monthly decline. Within the group, prices were down 19.9% in sugar refineries and 2.1% in the slaughtering and meat packing industry. Prices from feed manufacturers decreased 2.9%, continuing a decline begun in November 1974.

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

- Paper and allied industries, 28.8%; chemical and chemical products industries, 27.7%; petroleum and coal products industries, 26.1%; non-metallic mineral products industries, 20.0%; and rubber products industries, 16.7%.

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





### Department Store Sales by Regions

Department store sales in March rose to \$384.1 million, up 10.4% from a year earlier. Increases were recorded in all regions of Canada except Manitoba and British Columbia.

Department store sales by region for the latest month, with percentage changes from March 1974 in brackets:

- Ontario, \$141.0 million (10.7%); Quebec, \$76.6 million (20.2%); British Columbia, \$62.2 million (-0.7%); Alberta, \$48.8 million (14.2%); Atlantic Provinces, \$23.2 million (16.4%); Manitoba, \$21.9 million (-4.0%); Saskatchewan, \$10.3 million (20.9%).

For further information, order the March 1975 issue of *Department Store Sales by Regions* (63-004, \$1.50 per year).

### For-Hire Trucking, 1973 — (Domestic Commodity Origin and Destination Survey)

For-hire motor carriers, with gross annual operating revenues of \$100.00 and over, earned revenues of \$1.3 billion in 1973, preliminary survey figures show.

These carriers moved 100.0 million tons of cargo and recorded 21.0 billion ton-miles.

For further information, contact the Motor Carrier Statistics Section (613-996-9276), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

### Non-Residential Building Construction Input Price Index (1961=100)

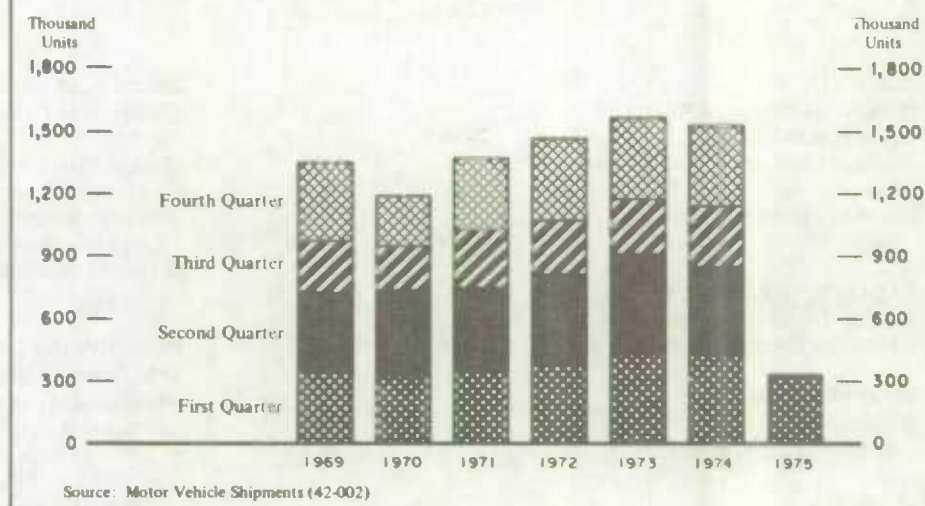
The non-residential building construction input price index for Canada rose to 241.8 in March, an increase of 0.2% from the February level and up 10.3% from a year earlier.

The materials component of the total index rose 6.5% over the twelve months from March 1974; labour costs increased 13.5%.

Prices of concrete products used in non-residential building construction climbed 19.9% during this period, electrical equipment rose 9.8%, steel and metal work 8.9%, plumbing, heating and other equipment 6.3% and other materials 11.1%. Prices of lumber and lumber products dropped 15.1%.

For further information, order the March 1975 issue of *Construction Price Statistics, Monthly Bulletin* (62-007, \$4 per year).

### Canadian Production of Motor Vehicles



### Telephone Industry Statistics

Canadian telephone systems reported net operating revenue of \$59.2 million in February, a decrease of 4.2% from February 1974.

Gross operating revenues of the thirteen major telephone companies rose 15.3% to \$208.4 million in the latest month; operating expenses jumped 25.3% to \$149.2 million.

Construction expenditures of these firms at \$124.7 million in February showed an increase of 43.8% from a year earlier.

For further information, order *Communications Service Bulletin* (56-001, \$1.40 per year), Vol. 5, No. 10, *Monthly Telephone Statistics*, February 1975.

### General Wholesale Index

(1935-39=100)

The general wholesale price index declined 1.2% in March to 477.6 from 483.3 (revised) in February to stand 7.2% higher than the March 1974 level of 445.5. Four of the eight major group indexes decreased while four increased.

The vegetable products group index fell 4.2% in March, reflecting price drops of 21.6% for sugar and its products, 3.5% for livestock and poultry feeds, 3.5% for vegetable oil products, 3.0% for tea, coffee and cocoa and 2.5% for potatoes. Animal products' prices declined 1.4% with decreases of 9.7% for furs, 5.6% for livestock, 4.9% for lard and tallow, 2.9% for fresh meats and 2.0% for cured meats.

Over the twelve months from March 1974, the following percentage changes were registered for the major group indexes:

- Non-metallic minerals, 28.1%; chemical products, 28.0%; iron products, 16.1%; wood products, 12.1%; vegetable products, 2.6%; animal products, 2.6%; non-ferrous metals, -0.1%; and textile products, -5.5%.

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

### Gold Production

Production of gold declined 19.6% in March to 119,500 troy ounces from 148,711 troy ounces a year earlier.

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<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
Production of Eggs and Poultry, February 1975	23-003	30¢/\$3	Mineral Wool, March 1975	44-004	15¢/\$1.50
Stocks of Dairy and Frozen Poultry Products, April 1975	32-009	30¢/\$3	Oil Pipe Line Transport, February 1975	55-001	30¢/\$3
Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, April 1975	32-012	30¢/\$3	Oils and Fats, December 1974	32-006	30¢/\$3
			Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, January 1975	35-003	30¢/\$3
<b>BALANCE OF PAYMENTS</b>			Soaps and Synthetic Detergents, February 1975	46-003	15¢/\$1.50
Security Transactions with Non- residents, December 1974	67-002	40¢/\$4			
<b>BUSINESS FINANCE</b>			<b>PRELIMINARY BULLETINS</b>		
Industrial Corporations, Financial Statistics, Fourth Quarter 1974	61-003	\$1.40/ \$5.60	1973 Census of Manufactures -		
			Clock and Watch Manufacturers	47-206-p-2	
<b>CENSUS</b>			Instrument and Related Products Manufacturers	47-206-p-1	
Agriculture - Basic Socio-Economic Characteristics of Farm Operators, Canada and Provinces, 1971 Census of Canada	96-712	\$1.05	Manufacturers of Miscellaneous Electrical Products	43-210-p	
Industries by Sex, for Census Agglom- erations of 25,000 and Over (Place of Residence) and Census Agglomerations of 50,000 and Over (Place of Work), 1971 Census of Canada	94-743	\$1.40	Orthopaedic and Surgical Appliance Manufacturers	47-206-p-3	\$4.90/ for series
Labour Force and Individual Income - Wage and Salary Income, For Urban Centres, 1971 Census of Canada	94-714	70¢	Signs and Displays Industry	47-209-p	
			<b>SERVICE BULLETINS</b>		
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>			Energy Statistics - Vol. 10, No. 16, Refined Petroleum Products, Selected Preliminary Data, February 1975	57-002	\$4.20 per year
The Non-Residential General Building Contracting Industry, 1972	64-207	\$1.05	Fabricated Metal Products - Vol. 4, No. 3, Oil Filters and Cart- ridges, March 1975; Vol. 4, No. 10, Domestic and Farm Water Systems, February 1975; Vol. 4, No. 11, Sanitaryware, March 1975	41-009	\$2.80 per year
<b>GENERAL TIME SERIES</b>			Fish and Fish Products - Advance Release of Fish Landings, March 1975: Maritimes, Vol. 4, No. 26; Fish Freezings and Stocks, March 1975: British Columbia, Vol. 4, No. 30; Maritimes, Vol. 4, No. 29; Preliminary Release of 1973 Sea Fisheries Statistics (excluding inland) by Provinces, Vol. 4, No. 31	24-003	\$1.40 per year
Canadian Statistical Review, April 1975	11-003E	70¢/\$7	Tobacco and Tobacco Products - Vol. 4, No. 4, Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, March 1975	32-022	\$1.40 per year
<b>GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT</b>			<b>MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES</b>		
National Income and Expenditure Accounts, Fourth Quarter and Preliminary Annual 1974	13-001	\$1.05/ \$4.20	Consumer Credit, February 1975	61-004	30¢/\$3
			New Motor Vehicle Sales, February 1975	63-007	30¢/\$3
<b>HEALTH</b>			<b>TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
Health Manpower - Physicians and Surgeons, 1972	83-223	\$1.05	<b>SERVICE BULLETIN</b>		
<b>MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES</b>			Aviation Statistics Centre - Vol. 7, No. 22, Helicopter Revenue Hours Flown, 3rd Quarter 1974	51-004	\$4.20 per year
Consumption, Production and Inven- tories of Rubber, February 1975	33-003	30¢/\$3			
Hardboard, March 1975	36-001	15¢/\$1.50			
Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, January 1975	31-001	55¢/\$5.50			