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Weekly Bulletin

Employment, Earnings and Hours

Average weekly earnings in Canadian industry at \$198.15 in April were up 14.8% from \$172.56 a year earlier.

First estimates show that average weekly earnings (by province) were highest in British Columbia (\$222.95), followed by Alberta (\$200.54), Ontario (\$200.07), Newfoundland (\$196.99), Quebec (\$192.53), Saskatchewan (\$183.28), New Brunswick (\$181.58), Manitoba (\$181.32), Nova Scotia (\$171.43) and Prince Edward Island (\$147.23).

Average weekly earnings in April (by industry division) were as follows: construction, \$276.16; mining, \$271.52; forestry, \$265.20; transportation, communication and other utilities, \$227.42; manufacturing, \$208.54; finance, insurance and real estate, \$188.98; trade, \$157.28; and service, \$137.35.

For further information, order the April 1975 issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, 70¢/\$7), or contact R. Ouellette (613-992-5613), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V2.

Retail Trade

Seasonally-adjusted April retail sales decreased 1.4% from March to a level of \$3.90 billion.

Total retail trade without seasonal adjustment reached \$3.95 billion, an increase of 10.5% from a year earlier. All provinces except Saskatchewan (-0.3%) had sales increases over April 1974 with the largest advance in Prince Edward Island (16.4%). Sales were up 17.7% in Vancouver, 11.9% in Montreal, 7.0% in Winnipeg and 6.6% in Toronto.

Year-to-year gains were registered in 24 of the 28 trade groups with the largest increases shown by used car dealers (36.3%) and combination stores (19.0%).

Revised data for March show retail sales for the month at \$3.64 billion, up 9.0% from March 1974.

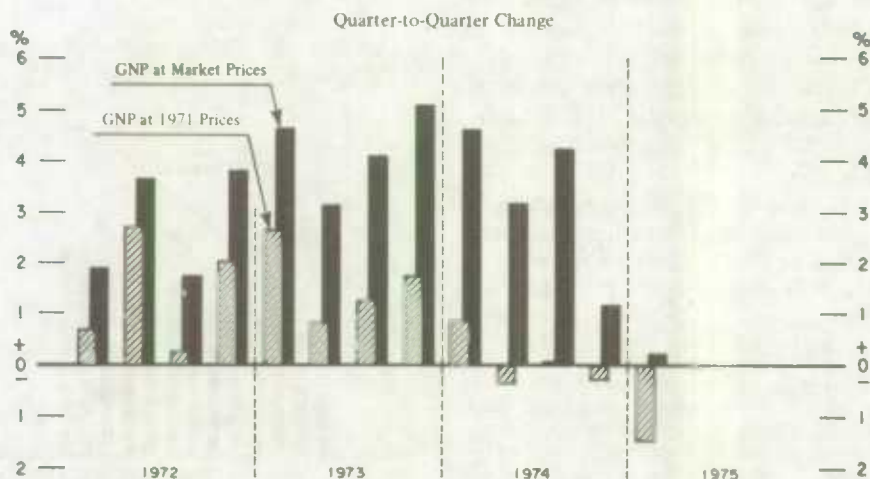
For further information, order the April 1975 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, 40¢/\$4), or contact B. Theriault (613-996-9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS			Change From	
	Latest Month	Previous Month	Year Ago	%
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Apr.* 198.15P	195.34P	14.8	
Labour Income (\$ million)	Mar.* 6,790P	6,666P	14.4	
Persons with Jobs (million)	May 9.38	9.01	2.5	
Unemployed	May 714,000	795,000	36.3	
INVENTORIES				
Department Store (\$ million)	Mar. 1,315	1,273	9.3	
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Apr.* 15,282P	15,252P	25.1	
Wholesale (\$ million)	Apr.* 6,408	6,348	24.7	
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Apr.* 6,890P	6,848P	2.2	
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Apr.* 10,091P	10,302P	11.5	
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1961=100)	May 181.3	179.8	10.1	
Industry Selling Price Index (1961=100)	Apr. 188.9	187.1 ^r	14.0	
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Apr. 483.0	477.8 ^r	6.4	
CONSTRUCTION				
Building Permits (\$ million)	Mar.* 619.8P	Year-to-date 1,597 - 12.0		
Housing Starts - Urban Centres (units)	Apr. 11,929	30,296 - 41.3		
ENERGY				
Coal Production (thousand tons)	Mar. 2,313	6,714	10.9	
Electricity Generation (billion Kwh.)	Apr. 22.8	98.2	0.1	
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Feb. 278.8	588.1	-2.6	
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Apr.* 52.4	207.4	-3.6	
FOREIGN TRADE				
Exports (\$ million)	Apr. 2,595	10,156	5.8	
Imports (\$ million)	Apr. 2,865	11,131	20.2	
PRODUCTION				
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Apr. 136.8	461.4	-20.1	
Steel (ingots - thousand tons)	Apr. 1,257	4,943	2.5	
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Apr. 430.5	1,445	10.8	
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Apr.* 7,101P	26,912	7.2	
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Apr. 653.4	2,047	7.2	
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Apr.* 3,953	14,097	11.0	
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Apr.* 3,651	13,526	5.6	

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

Canada's Gross National Product (GNP)



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

All Data Seasonally Adjusted

Consumer Credit

Consumer credit outstanding on the books of selected credit holders reporting monthly reached \$16.57 billion at the end of April, an increase of 13.7% from a year earlier.

Outstanding balances held by these credit grantors in the latest month, with percentage changes from April 30, 1974:

- Chartered banks' personal loans, \$11.39 billion (up 18.7%);
- Sales finance and consumer companies:
 - small loans, \$275 million (– 15.4%);
 - large loans, \$1.49 billion (up 2.5%);
 - retail instalment sales paper, \$1.12 billion (– 4.1%);
- Life insurance companies' policy loans, \$1.10 billion (up 19.5%);
- Department stores and furniture, television, radio and household appliances stores, \$1.15 billion (up 6.9%);
- Quebec savings banks' personal loans, \$48 million (up 23.1%).

For further information, order the April 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.

Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries

Manufacturers' seasonally-adjusted new orders in April were estimated at \$6.70 billion, up 0.4% from the revised value for March of \$6.67 billion. New orders for durable goods increased 0.5% to \$2.94 billion, while those for non-durable goods rose 0.3% to \$3.75 billion.

Total unfilled orders were estimated at \$10.01 billion, down 1.9% from the previous month.

Total inventory owned, seasonally adjusted, was 0.6% higher at \$15.19 billion.

The seasonally-adjusted ratio of total inventory owned – to shipments declined to 2.20:1 in April from 2.23:1 (revised) in March, while the finished products – to shipments ratio remained steady at 0.75:1 in both months.

Manufacturers' shipments in the latest month, seasonally adjusted, were estimated at \$6.89 billion, an increase of 1.8% from March.

Not adjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in April were estimated at \$7.10 billion. Shipments in the first four months of 1975 totalled \$26.91 billion, up 7.2% from \$25.10 billion in January-April 1974.

For further information, order the April 1975 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, 55¢/\$5.50), or contact H.D. Wightman (613-996-7008), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Department Store Sales by Regions, May

Estimates of Labour Income, April

New Motor Vehicle Sales, May

Railway Carloadings, May

Summary of Foreign Trade, May

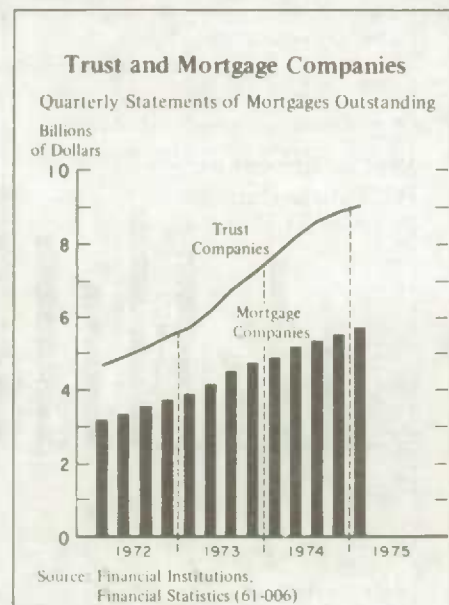
Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities

Consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities in May with increases ranging from 0.5% in St. John's and Halifax to 1.1% in Saint John and Vancouver.

The food index rose in all 14 centres, reflecting generally-higher prices for fresh produce, meat, poultry and dairy products. Increased shelter costs (for both owned and rented accommodation), higher prices for tobacco products, increased movie admission charges and higher prices for recreation equipment were other major contributors to the advances recorded for the all-items indexes at the city level. The health and personal care component of the index also increased in most cities.

Between May 1974 and May 1975, consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities, with increases recorded as follows: Winnipeg, 11.2%; Saint John, 11.1%; Vancouver, 10.9%; Thunder Bay, 10.7%; St. John's, 10.5%; Calgary, 10.2%; Toronto, 10.2%; Saskatoon, 10.2%; Montreal, 9.8%; Edmonton, 9.6%; Quebec City, 9.2%; Regina, 9.2%; Halifax, 8.9%; and Ottawa, 8.9%.

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



Federal Government Employment

Canada's federal government had 450,790 employees on December 31, 1974, an increase of 17,064 (3.9%) from a year earlier.

Total payroll for the latest quarter amounted to \$1.36 billion, up \$257.1 million (23.3%) from October-December 1973.

For further information, order *Federal Government Employment, Fourth Quarter 1974* (72-004, 70¢/\$2.80).

Refined Petroleum Products

Canadian refineries produced 52.4 million barrels of refined petroleum products in April, up 4.2% from a year earlier.

Net sales of refined petroleum products at 47.6 million barrels in the latest month showed an increase of 2.4% from April 1974.

For further information, order the April 1975 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, 40¢/\$4), or contact G.R. Kitchen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Canadian Balance of International Payments

Canada's seasonally-adjusted current account deficit widened to \$1.53 billion in the first quarter of 1975 from \$998 million in the previous quarter. The main factor in the increased deficit was a rise of \$520 million in the merchandise trade deficit to \$537 million.

Merchandise exports were especially weak in the latest quarter, showing a 6% drop in value that reflected both the slackness in demand in foreign countries, particularly the United States, and supply restraints in Canada, especially labour problems at West Coast Ports. Merchandise imports rose less than 1%.

Among non-merchandise accounts, the major movements on a seasonally-adjusted basis were an increase in travel expenditures abroad of \$100 million and a decrease in freight and shipping receipts. These were more than offset by a reduction in payments for interest and dividends and by small increases in receipts from service accounts.

Total capital movements, unadjusted for seasonal variations, led to a net capital inflow of \$2.00 billion in the first quarter of 1975, up from \$830 million in the previous quarter. This inflow largely financed the unadjusted current account deficit of \$2.03 billion, so that the imbalance covered by a decrease in Canada's official monetary assets was \$37 million.

For further information, order *Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments, First Quarter 1975* (67-001, \$1.05/\$4.20).

Gross National Product (GNP)

Canada's Gross National Product (at market prices) grew by 0.3% in the first quarter of 1975 to reach a level of \$146.5 billion, seasonally adjusted at annual rates. In real terms, however, GNP declined on the quarter by 1.4% and was down 2.0% from the peak achieved in the first quarter of 1974.

The latest quarter was characterized by a recovery in consumer expenditure, further deterioration in residential construction activity and in the external trade sector, and some moderation in the rate of price inflation.

Despite the continuation of the recessionary pattern that began in the second quarter of 1974, growth was reasonably strong in the first quarter of 1975, with the exception of exports and the rate of inventory accumulation. Thus final domestic demand — which excludes these components — was up 1.3% in real terms in the quarter and 1.5% on the year.

Some first-quarter highlights:

- Consumer spending on goods and services showed an increase of 3.4% from last year's fourth quarter. This increase was considerably larger than the corresponding rise in personal disposable income of 2%, resulting in a drop of almost \$1 billion in personal savings.
- Business investment in machinery and equipment remained strong, increasing by 7.4% from the previous quarter. However, business residential construction declined by 4.8%. Total gross fixed capital formation was moderately strong in the first quarter, rising by 3.6% to a level of \$35.45 billion.
- Wages, salaries and supplementary labour income rose by 1.5% to a level of \$82.36 billion; the relatively-weak growth rate was mainly attributable to declining employment. Wages and salaries in the goods-producing industries showed virtually no change in the first quarter while those in the service-producing industries rose by 2.1%.
- Corporation profits (before taxes) declined for the second successive quarter, falling 4.7% from the fourth quarter to an annual level of \$16.61 billion.

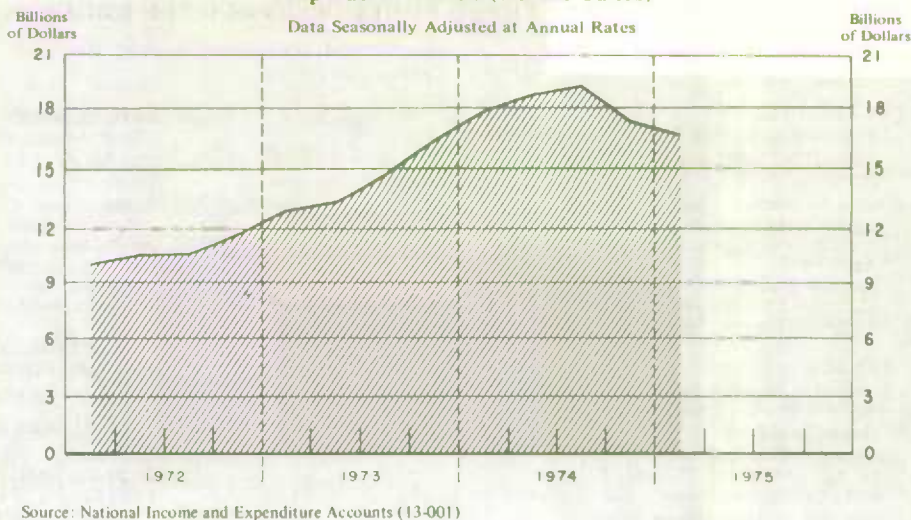
For further information, order *National Income and Expenditure Accounts, First Quarter, 1975* (13-001, \$1.05/\$4.20).

Oil Pipe Line Transport

Canadian oil pipe lines received 2.37 million barrels per day of crude oil, condensate, pentanes plus and refined petroleum products in April, a decrease of 16.5% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the *April 1975 issue of Oil Pipe Line Transport* (55-001, 30¢/\$3).

Corporation Profits (Before Taxes)



Labour Income

Total labour income for March was estimated at \$6.79 billion, up 14.4% from a year earlier.

Adjusted for seasonal variations, the March estimate of \$6.92 billion showed an increase of 1.1% from the February level.

Seasonally adjusted, labour income for the first quarter of 1975 increased by 1.5%, as compared with an advance of 4.1% recorded in the fourth quarter of 1974. Wages and salaries in the goods-producing industries increased 0.4% in the latest quarter and those in the service-producing industries moved up 2.1%.

For further information, order the *January-March 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.

Unemployment Insurance Payments

Net benefit paid to claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act reached \$357 million in April, an increase of 69% from \$211 million a year earlier. The average weekly payment was up 12% to \$83.85 from \$74.78.

Initial and renewal claims received in April numbered 230,000, up 48% from the April 1974 total of 156,000.

For the first four months of 1975, net payments under the act amounted to \$1.25 billion, an increase of 39% from the \$900 million disbursed in January-April 1974.

For further information, order the *April 1975 issue of Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act* (73-001, 40¢/\$4), or contact George Fincham (613-992-7461), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

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Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in April were estimated at \$3.65 billion, up 7.6% from April 1974.

One of the most notable sales changes in the consumer goods trades was registered by the motor vehicles component, showing an increase of 45.1%. In the industrial goods trades, sales of industrial and transportation equipment and supplies were up 40.0% from a year earlier.

Wholesale inventories were valued at \$6.41 billion in the latest month, an increase of 24.7% over April of last year.

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



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AGRICULTURE					
Field Crop Reporting Series - No. 7					
Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces, June 12, 1975	22-002	\$5.60 for series	Pack, Shipments and Stocks of Selected Canned Fruits and Vegetables, April 1975	32-011	30¢/\$3
Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, April 1975	62-003	15¢/\$1.50	Primary Iron and Steel, March 1975	41-001	40¢/\$4
Production of Eggs and Poultry, April 1975	23-003	30¢/\$3	Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, April 1975	26-007	15¢/\$1.50
Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, October-December 1974	21-003	\$1.40/\$5.60	Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, February 1975	35-002	30¢/\$3
The Wheat Review, May 1975	22-005	55¢/\$5.50	Products Made from Canadian Clays, April 1975	44-005	15¢/\$1.50
CENSUS					
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Activity of Family Members, 1971			Silver, Lead and Zinc Production, April 1975	26-008	15¢/\$1.50
Census of Canada	93-723	\$1.05	The Sugar Situation, April 1975	32-013	15¢/\$1.50
Housing - Dwelling Characteristics by Age and Sex of Household Head, 1971 Census of Canada	93-739	\$1.40	PRELIMINARY BULLETINS		
Industries - Industries by Sex, Showing Age, Marital Status, Level of Schooling and Class of Worker, for Quebec and Ontario, 1971			1973 Census of Manufactures -		
Census of Canada	94-751	\$1.05	Aircraft and Aircraft Parts	42-203-p	
Industries - Industry Divisions and Major Groups by Sex, Showing Age, Class of Worker and Number of Married Females, for Census Metropolitan Areas (Place of Work), 1971 Census of Canada	94-757	\$1.05	Manufacturers	44-204-p	
Labour Force and Individual Income - Wage and Salary Income, for Canada, Provinces and Census Divisions, 1971 Census of Canada	94-713	\$1.40	Cement Manufacturers	32-216-p	
Population - Labour Force Migration by Schooling, Age and Occupation, 1971 Census of Canada	92-749	\$2.10	Fish Products Industry	32-228-p	
Population - Migration by Labour Force Activity, Canada and Provinces, 1971 Census of Canada	92-747	\$1.40	Flour and Breakfast Cereal Products Industry	34-213-p	
Quarterly Estimates of Population for Canada and Provinces, April 1974	91-001	35¢	Fur Goods' Industry	41-208-p	
CONSTRUCTION					
Housing Starts and Completions, March 1975	64-002	40¢/\$4	Hardware, Tool and Cutlery Manufacturers	34-218-p-2	
EXTERNAL TRADE					
Imports by Commodities, March 1975	65-007	80¢/\$8	Hat and Cap Industry	41-203-p	
Summary of External Trade, April 1975	65-001	40¢/\$4	Iron and Steel Mills	32-225-p-1	
FINANCIAL FLOWS AND MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES					
Financial Flow Accounts, Fourth Quarter 1974	13-002	\$1.40/\$5.60	Leaf Tobacco Processors	46-219-p-3	
LABOUR					
Employment, Earnings and Hours, December 1974	72-002	55¢/\$5.50	Manufacturers of Industrial Chemicals (Organic)	46-220-p	
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			Wooden Box Factories		
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			Restaurant Statistics, April 1975	63-011	15¢/\$1.50
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			Railway Operating Statistics, March 1975	52-003	30¢/\$3
			SERVICE BULLETINS		
			Aviation Statistics Centre -		
			Vol. 7: No. 30, International Air Charter Statistics, Passenger Origin and Destination, November 1974; No. 32, Aircraft Movement Statistics, March 1975	51-004	\$4.20 per year
			Communications - Vol. 5, No. 15, Monthly Telephone Statistics, April 1975	56-001	\$1.40 per year
			Railway Transport - Vol. 5, No. 8, Railway Carloadings, April 1975	52-004	\$1.40 per year