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Weekly Bulletin

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Net benefit paid to claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act declined to \$217 million in July, down 15% from the \$255 million disbursed a year earlier. The average weekly benefit at \$90.92 was up 10% from July 1975.

Persons receiving unemployment insurance benefits in July numbered 571,000, down 3% from June and 12% below the year-earlier level.

The number of claims for benefit received in July was 212,000, up 9% from June but down 12% from July 1975.

For the first seven months of 1976, net payments under the act amounted to \$2.145 billion, an increase of 7% from \$2.012 billion paid out in the corresponding period last year.

For further information, order the July 1976 issue of Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act (73-001, 40¢/\$4) or Advance Unemployment Insurance Statistics (73-001p, no charge to subscribers).

Operations of Transcontinental and Regional Air Carriers

Canada's seven major scheduled airlines reported a combined net loss of \$58.3 million for the first six months of 1976 that compared with the net loss of \$21.2 million shown in the January-June period of 1975.

Total operating revenues increased 6.8% in the latest period to \$758.8 million while operating expenses climbed 10.9% to \$790.8 million.

An eight-day strike of airline pilots disrupted traffic in the latter part of June 1976. Passenger traffic for the month amounted to 1,173.9 million passenger-miles, down from 1,594.1 million in June 1975. Goods ton-miles for all services dropped to 32.7 million from 38.7 million.

For further information, order Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin, Vol. 8, No. 46 (51-004, \$4.20 per year).

Local Government Employment

Municipal governments in Canada employed a total of 268,820 persons in general government services at the end of June, an increase of 1,700 (0.6%) from the corresponding period in 1975.

Gross payrolls for the second quarter of 1976 amounted to \$676.6 million, up 15.1% from \$587.7 million in April-June 1975.

For further information, order Local Government Employment, Second Quarter 1976 (72-009, 70¢/\$2.80).

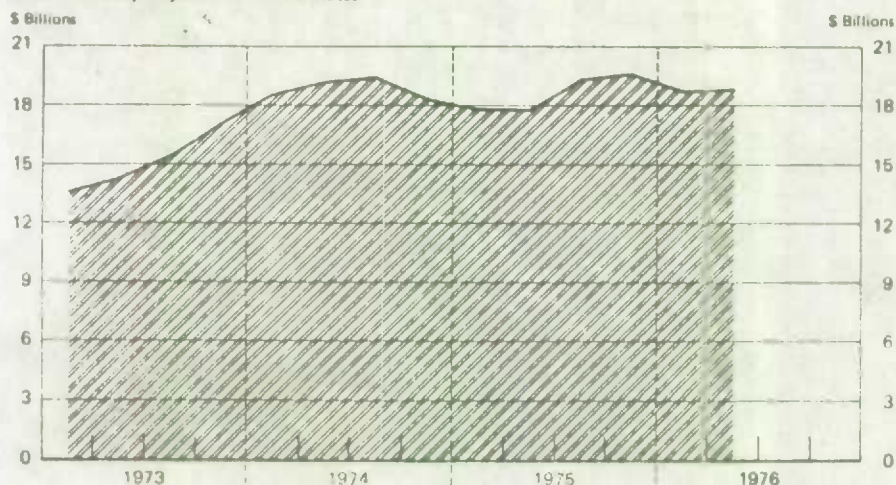
LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

		Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	June	229.00p	225.56p	12.7
Labour Income (\$ million)	June	9,053p	8,825p	16.8
Persons with Jobs (million)	Aug	10.06	10.06	2.5
Unemployed	Aug	709,000	775,000	2.3
INVENTORIES				
Department Store (\$ million)	July	1,785	1,663	31.4
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	July*	16,140p	16,054r	5.6
Wholesale (\$ million)	July	6,968	6,851	7.0
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	July*	7,552p	8,540r	-9.8
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	July*	9,586p	9,588r	-6.3
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Aug	150.0	149.3	6.2
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	July	161.8	161.4r	5.1
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	July	515.8	515.6r	5.2
CONSTRUCTION				
Building Permits (\$ million)	July*	1,035.0p	7,039.9	25.1
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	June	23,301	99,112	53.0
ENERGY				
Coal Production (thousand tons)	July*	1,739	12,551	-7.2
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	July	21.6	170.3	6.3
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Apr.	290.9	1,223.0	2.9
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	June	53.5	308.1	-1.4
FOREIGN TRADE				
Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Aug.*	3,029	24,740	15.1
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Aug.*	2,959	25,043	9.3
PRODUCTION				
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	July	71.5	984.0	21.1
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Aug.	1,185	9,513	-1.5
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	July	509.0	3,250.4	14.7
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	July*	7,554p	56,471	13.6
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	July	633.6	4,684.1	13.4
Retail Sales (\$ million)	July	4,931	31,540	14.1
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	July	4,208	28,841	11.6

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

Corporation Profits (Before Taxes)

Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



Source: National Income and Expenditure Accounts (113-001)

Real Domestic Product (RDP)

(1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product advanced 0.5% to 123.6 in July from 123.0 in June.

Production increases were recorded in forestry (22.8%), construction (0.4%), utilities (0.2%), transportation, storage and communication (4.6%), finance, insurance and real estate (0.2%), community, business and personal services (0.2%) and public administration and defence services (0.5%). The gain in forestry resulted from increased production of pulpwood. In transportation, storage and communication, the sharp increase was due to air transport, which was affected by strikes for part of the month of June. Railway transport and grain elevator output also increased.

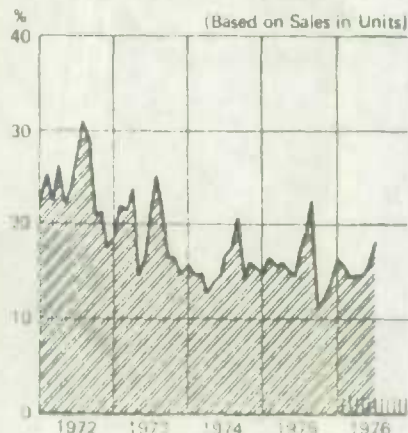
Declines were recorded in July for mining (-2.2%), trade (-0.8%), agriculture (-0.8%) and fishing and trapping (-3.8%). In metal mines, the major decrease was in iron mines, while mineral fuels showed a decline due to decreased output of crude petroleum and natural gas. Coal production increased sharply following the end of strikes at several mines.

Real domestic product in July was only 0.2% above the April level; this contrasts with the period from October 1975 to April 1976 when total RDP grew 4.7%. The source of most of this growth was the goods-producing industries, where output increased 7.8%; the corresponding advance for service-producing industries was 2.7%.

Within this period, the major contributors to the advance in the goods-producing industries were forestry and pulp and paper (both affected by pulp and paper strikes), agriculture and construction.

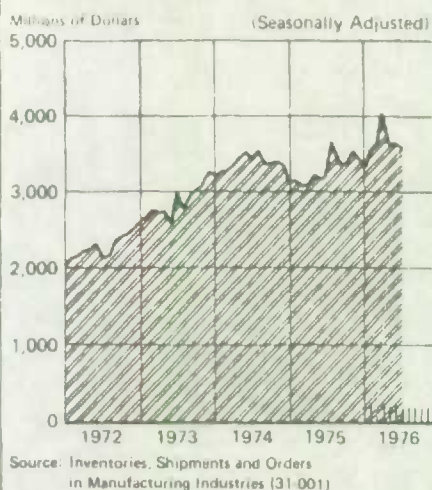
For further information, order the July 1976 issue of *Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry* (including the *Index of Industrial Production*), (61-005, 40¢/\$4), or contact R.W. Collins (613-995-0443), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Share of Canadian Passenger Car Market Held by Overseas Manufacturers



Source: New Motor Vehicle Sales (63-007)

Manufacturers' New Orders for Durable Goods



Index of Industrial Production

(1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of industrial production declined 0.3% to 119.5 in July from 119.8 (revised) in June.

Output of mines, quarries and oil wells fell 2.2% in the latest month while that of electric power, gas and water utilities increased 0.2%. Total manufacturing output was unchanged from the June level; non-durables manufacturing decreased 0.2% but durables manufacturing increased 0.1%.

Revised data show that during the second quarter of 1976 the index of industrial production registered an increase of 1.5%. Gains were recorded in manufacturing (2.2%) but production decreases were shown by mines (-0.5%) and utilities (-1.0%).

Iron Ore

Canadian mines shipped 8,073,624 short tons of iron ore in August compared with 4,837,926 short tons a year earlier.

Output for the first eight months of 1976 at 39,727,759 short tons was up 27.6% from 31,131,334 short tons in the corresponding period of 1975.

For further information, order the August 1976 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.

THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Consumer Price Movements, September

Department Store Sales by Regions, August

Employment, Earnings and Hours, July

Housing Starts and Completions, July

New Motor Vehicle Sales, August

Retail Trade, August

Report on Job Vacancies

Preliminary estimates for the three-month period ending August 31 show an increase in the average number of vacant jobs from the previous three-month period. Vacancies for full-time, part-time and casual jobs rose 16% to 61,800 from 53,300. (However, on a year-to-year basis, job vacancies declined by 15%).

The number of vacancies for full-time jobs increased by 14% from the preceding period to 55,000 while the number of longer-term vacancies — jobs unfilled for more than four weeks — increased by 27% to 19,800.

For every 1,000 existing jobs in the three-month period ending August 31, seven were vacant, up from six in the previous period. A year earlier, the comparable rate was slightly higher — nine per 1,000.

The highest vacancy rates were observed in Alberta (18 per 1,000), Saskatchewan (11 per 1,000) and Manitoba (nine per 1,000) while the lowest rates (five per 1,000) were recorded in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Quebec.

For further information, contact J.A. Boucek (613-992-2006), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Residential Building Construction Input Price Index

(1971=100)

The Residential Building Construction Input Price Index for Canada advanced to 162.2 in August, an increase of 0.8% from July and up 9.7% from a year earlier.

Prices of materials used in residential building construction increased 7.7% over the 12 months from August 1975; labour costs rose 12.9%.

During this period, residential building construction input price indexes advanced in all regions of Canada with increases recorded as follows:

- Prairie Provinces, 14.4%; Atlantic Provinces, 10.8%; British Columbia, 9.6%; Quebec, 9.3%; and Ontario, 8.0%.

Labour cost indexes showed the following increases (by region): Prairie Provinces, 25.0%; Atlantic Provinces, 15.4%; British Columbia, 11.0%; Ontario, 10.3%; and Quebec, 10.2%.

For further information, order the August 1976 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.

The Dairy Review

Canadian production of milk produced for all purposes in July totalled an estimated 1,663,678,000 pounds, a decrease of 6.2% from a year earlier.

For the first seven months of 1976, milk production reached an estimated 10,479,332,000 pounds, up 5.5% from the January-July period last year.

For further information, order the July 1976 issue of *The Dairy Review* (23-001, 40¢/\$4), or contact C.M. Riach (613-994-9974), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

Statement of Canadian Trade

Both exports and imports, seasonally adjusted on a balance-of-payments basis, increased in August to record levels — \$3,404 million for exports and \$3,211 million for imports — yielding a merchandise trade surplus of \$193 million, the largest monthly surplus so far this year.

Seasonally-adjusted exports, on a customs basis, rose 7.3% in August to \$3,349 million. After dropping 6% in July, exports to the United States increased 14.2% to a record level of \$2,353 million. Canadian deliveries to overseas markets declined 6% to \$996 million as an increase in shipments to European Economic Community members was outweighed by declines to Japan and other countries.

Motor vehicles and parts accounted for approximately half the total gain in exports. Shipments of forestry products, ores and metals also recorded strong advances in August, but exports of wheat fell from the high levels of the preceding two months.

Seasonally-adjusted imports (on a customs basis) increased 6.0% in August to \$3,269 million. Imports from the United States at \$2,331 million were up 11.2% from July; imports from overseas countries declined 5% to \$938 million, with the fall concentrated in shipments from the EEC.

Automotive products, machinery and equipment contributed to the rise in imports from the United States. Imports of crude oil declined in August, along with motor vehicles and non-ferrous metals from overseas countries. Moderate gains were recorded in imports of automotive parts, other equipment and consumer goods.

For further information on area and commodity trade, order the August 1976 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, 40¢/\$4).

Railway Carloadings

Canadian railways carried a total of 23.6 million tons of revenue freight in August, an increase of 14.1% from a year earlier. Traffic received from United States connections (included above) declined 0.1% to 1.7 million tons.

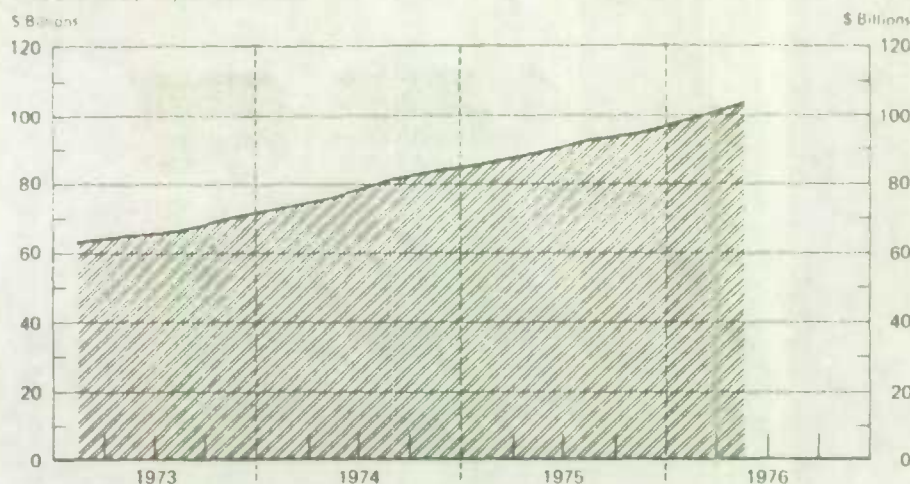
On a commodity basis, significant increases were recorded in loadings of pulpwood chips, wood pulp, lumber, iron ore, potash, sulphur and containers-on-flatcars. Decreases occurred in rail shipments of alumina (due to a strike in that industry), coal and livestock.

Cumulatively, rail freight traffic in the first eight months of 1976 totalled 173.1 million tons, up 3.9% from January-August 1975. Notably higher in the latest period were loadings of forest products and iron ore (both industries had labour problems in 1975) and container traffic. Declines were noted in movements of coal, sulphur, copper ores, alumina and sand and gravel.

For further information, order the August 1976 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, 40¢/\$3) or for seasonally-adjusted revenue freight loadings, contact J.R. Slatery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Wages, Salaries and Supplementary Labour Income

Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



Source: National Income and Expenditure Accounts (13 001)

Import and Export Price and Volume Indexes

The three-month moving averages of both export and import price indexes showed little change in July, maintaining the trend to over-all price stability noted since the beginning of 1976. Import prices are at approximately the same level as in the year-earlier period, while export prices are 3.3% higher.

Both export and import volume have increased at accelerating pace throughout 1976 and in July were up 11.5% and 8.3%, respectively, from July 1975.

For further information, order the August 1976 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (65-001, 40¢/\$4).

Telephone Industry Statistics

Canadian telephone systems posted net operating revenue of \$90.9 million in July, an increase of 29.1% from July 1975.

Gross operating revenues of the 13 major telephone companies rose 20.5% to \$277.3 million in the latest month; operating expenses advanced 16.7% to \$186.4 million.

Construction expenditures of these firms totalled \$144.5 million in July, a decrease of 4.5% from a year earlier.

For further information, order *Communications Service Bulletin* (56-001, \$1.40 per year), Vol. 6, No. 22, *Monthly Telephone Statistics*, July 1976.

Coal and Coke Statistics

Production of coal in Canada decreased 21.8% in July to 1,739,346 tons from 2,223,797 tons in July 1975. Imports decreased to 1,370,991 tons from 1,838,682 tons.

Industrial consumers used 1,463,782 tons of coal in the latest month (up 36,699 tons from a year earlier) and 531,404 tons of coke (up 197,252 tons).

For further information, order the July 1976 issue of *Coal and Coke Statistics* (45-002, 40¢/\$4), or contact David Madsen (613-992-4021), Energy and Minerals Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Building Permits

Building permits taken out in Canada in July totalled \$1,035.0 million, up 4.8% from \$987.5 million in July 1975.

Higher totals were recorded in the latest month for residential permits at \$639.8 million (\$619.2 million a year earlier), commercial permits at \$202.5 million (\$171.9 million) and industrial permits at \$86.4 million (\$84.6 million); permits taken out for institutional and government building construction declined to \$106.2 million from \$111.6 million.

Provincial totals for building permits taken out in July, with July 1976 figures in brackets:

- Ontario, \$332.1 million (\$414.5 million); Quebec, \$274.3 million (\$151.1 million); Alberta, \$155.7 million (\$111.5 million); British Columbia, \$117.5 million (\$151.6 million); Saskatchewan, \$52.7 million (\$45.1 million); Manitoba, \$40.1 million (\$31.6 million); Nova Scotia, \$25.7 million (\$38.3 million); New Brunswick, \$18.7 million (\$31.4 million); Newfoundland, \$11.8 million (\$5.2 million); and Prince Edward Island, \$5.3 million (\$6.8 million).

For the first seven months of 1976, building permits taken out in Canada reached \$7,039.9 million, up 25.1% from \$5,626.9 million in the corresponding period of 1975.

For further information, order the July 1976 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, 70¢/\$7).

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Grain Milling Statistics, July 1976	32-003	30¢/\$3	Oils and Fats, June 1976	32-006	30¢/\$3
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