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INFORMAT

Weekly Bulletin

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Net benefit paid to claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act reached \$245 million in August, an increase of 14% from the \$215 million disbursed a year earlier. The average weekly benefit at \$91.73 was up 10% from August 1975.

Persons receiving unemployment insurance benefits in August totalled 570,000, virtually unchanged from July but down 13% from August 1975.

Claims filed by persons seeking benefit in August numbered 171,000, down 19% from July and down 2% from a year earlier.

For the first eight months of 1976, net payments under the act amounted to \$2,390 million, an increase of 7% from \$2,226 million paid out in the corresponding period last year.

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

Income Distributions by Size in Canada Preliminary Estimates, 1975

Average family income (total money income before taxes or other deductions) rose to \$16,263 in 1975 from \$14,833 in 1974, an increase of 10%. In terms of real purchasing power, however, there was no improvement as rising consumer prices completely eroded the income increment.

The average income of unattached individuals moved up 9%, advancing to \$6,664 in 1975 from \$6,099 in 1974.

Average income for all units, families and unattached individuals combined, moved to \$13,573 in 1975 from \$12,437 in 1974, an increase of 9% over the year.

On an individual basis, average income in 1975 amounted to \$8,137. Men received an average income of \$10,770 while the corresponding figure for women was \$4,710. (These figures exclude persons without income and children less than 15 years of age.)

For further information, order *Income Distributions by Size in Canada, Preliminary Estimates, 1975* (13-206, 70¢).

New Alberta Number

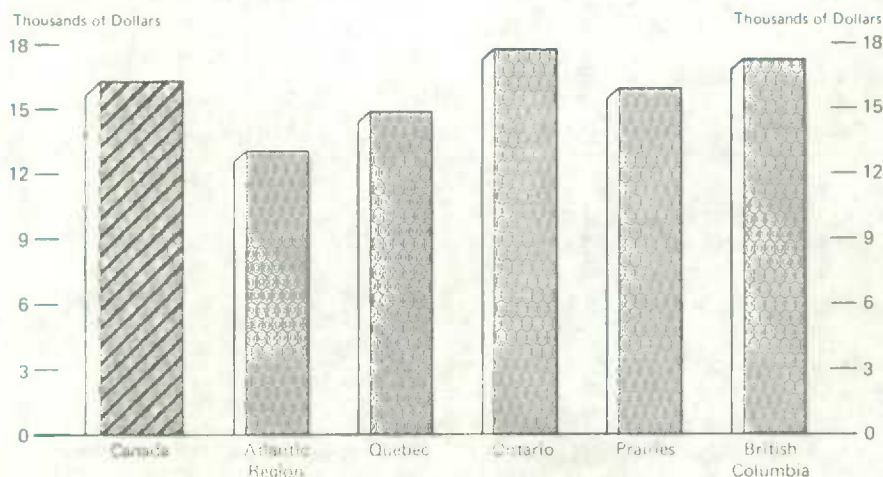
The Edmonton office of the User Advisory Services of Statistics Canada may now be reached free of charge from any Alberta point by dialing a new telephone number: 1-800-222-6400.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

		Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	July*	230.19p	229.41p	12.2
Labour Income (\$ million)	June	9,053p	8,825p	16.8
Persons with Jobs (million)	Sept.	9.69	10.06	1.9
Unemployed	Sept.	670,000	709,000	6.2
INVENTORIES				
Department Store (\$ million)	July	1,785	1,663	31.4
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Aug.*	16,300p	16,185r	6.6
Wholesale (\$ million)	July	6,968	6,851	7.0
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Aug.*	8,037p	7,380r	13.7
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Aug.*	9,587p	9,521r	-7.5
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Sept.	150.7	150.0	6.5
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Aug.	162.4	162.2r	4.6
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Aug.	513.5	517.1r	2.7
CONSTRUCTION				
Building Permits (\$ million)	July	1,035.0p	7,039.9	25.1
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	July	20,630	119,742	43.3
ENERGY				
Coal Production (thousand tons)	July	1,739	15,069	-4.5
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Aug.*	21.7	192.0	6.1
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	May	281.6	1,504.7	2.6
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	July	53.9	364.0	0.3
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)	Aug.	112.0	1,095.9	22.1
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Sept.*	1,182	10,668	-0.3
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Aug.*	487.3	3,737.7	13.5
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Aug.*	7,971p	64,335	13.6
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	569.0	5,252.4	12.0
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Aug.	4,679	36,199	13.4
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	July	4,208	28,841	11.6

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

Average Family Income,* 1975



Source: Income Distributions by Size in Canada (13-206)

* Preliminary estimates — includes all money income before taxes or other deductions and does not take inflation into account.

Population, 1976

Preliminary counts from the June 1 Census show Canada's population reached 22,598,000 compared with the final June 1971 census tally of 21,568,311.

(These figures are preliminary. They do not include persons absent from their usual place of residence on Census Day or who were overseas in the diplomatic corps or armed services. Any necessary adjustments will be included in final figures to be published in the spring of 1977.)

Following are 1976 preliminary population counts for the provinces (with final 1971 population in brackets): Ontario, 8,132,000 (7,703,106); Quebec, 6,141,500 (6,027,764); British Columbia, 2,406,250 (2,184,621); Alberta, 1,799,800 (1,627,874); Manitoba, 1,006,000 (988,247); Saskatchewan, 907,650 (926,242); Nova Scotia, 812,000 (788,960); New Brunswick, 664,500 (643,557); Newfoundland, 549,000 (522,104); Prince Edward Island, 116,250 (111,641).

For further information, contact Stan Boswell (613-994-5793 or 613-994-5744). For a copy of the publication *Population, Preliminary Counts, free of charge, contact Census User Inquiry Service (613-996-5254), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.*

Railway Operating Statistics

Canada's six major railways reported combined net income of \$15.7 million in August, up from \$7.5 million in August 1975. Operating revenues rose 12.2% to \$246.6 million while operating expenses advanced 8.8% to \$230.9 million.

Revenue freight ton-miles increased 4.5% in the latest month to 11.22 billion; passenger-miles — the total distance travelled by railway passengers — declined 17.3% to 171.9 million.

During the first eight months of 1976, railway operating revenues rose 11.5% from the year-earlier period while expenses increased 10.5%. Cumulative net income at \$35.3 million was more than double that posted in the January to August period of 1975.

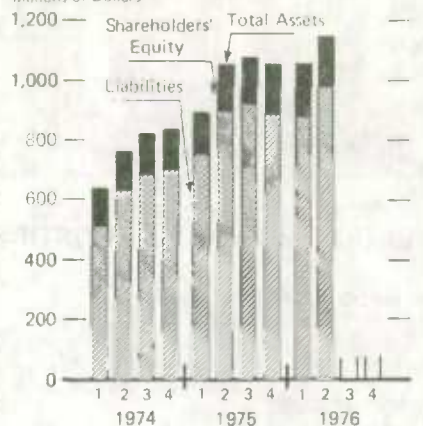
For further information, order the August 1976 issue of *Railway Operating Statistics* (52-003, 30¢/\$3), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9271), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Building Permits, August
Estimates of Labour Income, July
Motor Vehicle Production, September
New Motor Vehicle Sales, September
Summary of Foreign Trade, September

Mortgage Investment Trust Corporations

Quarterly Statements of Estimated Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity
Millions of Dollars



Source: Financial Institutions, Financial Statistics (61-006)

Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities

Between August and September, consumer price indexes rose in 13 regional cities and declined in one. Movements ranged from a decrease of 0.2% in Halifax to an increase of 1.2% in Vancouver.

Higher prices for gasoline and fuel oil along with increased shelter charges were major contributing factors to these advances. Other important contributing factors included higher prices for clothing, postage, magazines and cigarettes. Food for home consumption prices were generally lower across the country.

Between September 1975 and September 1976, consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities with increases recorded as follows: Vancouver, 9.3%; Thunder Bay, 8.5%; Halifax, 7.8%; Winnipeg, 7.8%; Regina, 7.4%; Saskatoon, 6.9%; Edmonton, 6.7%; Calgary, 6.7%; St. John's, 6.5%; Ottawa, 6.4%; Toronto, 6.4%; Saint John, 5.6%; Montreal, 5.6%; and Quebec City, 5.3%.

For further information, order the September 1976 issue of *Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities* (62-009, 30¢/\$3).

Index of Industrial Production (1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of industrial production increased 1.3% to 120.3 in August from its downward-revised level of 118.8 in July.

Total manufacturing output rose 1.1% in the latest month; durables manufacturing climbed 1.7% while non-durables manufacturing was up 0.4%. Mining production increased 2.7% and output of electric power, gas and water utilities advanced 0.6%.

For further information, order the August 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.

Employment, Earnings and Hours

Average weekly earnings in Canadian industry at \$230.19 in July were up 12.2% from \$205.18 a year earlier.

First estimates show that (unadjusted) average weekly earnings (by province) were highest in British Columbia (\$263.37), followed by Alberta (\$240.41), Ontario (\$230.21), Newfoundland (\$224.92), Quebec (\$224.87), Saskatchewan (\$217.84), Manitoba (\$210.59), New Brunswick (\$201.83), Nova Scotia (\$196.47) and Prince Edward Island (\$163.43).

Average weekly earnings in July (by industry division) were as follows: construction, \$336.96; mining, \$312.11; forestry, \$282.02; transportation, communication and other utilities, \$263.68; manufacturing, \$239.53; finance, insurance and real estate, \$215.96; trade, \$181.54; and service, \$166.18.

Compared with July 1975, average hourly earnings were up 15.3% in construction, 14.6% in manufacturing, and 13.7% in mining.

For further information, order the July 1976 issue of *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, 70¢/\$7), or contact R. Ouellette (613-992-5613), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V2.

Consumer Credit

Consumer credit outstanding on the books of selected credit holders reporting monthly reached \$20,924 million at the end of August, an increase of 17.8% from a year earlier.

Outstanding balances held by these credit grantors in the latest month, with percentage changes from August 31, 1975:

- Chartered banks' personal loans, \$15,485 million (24.3%).
- Sales finance and consumer companies' — small loans, \$229 million (-11.2%). — large loans, \$1,517 million (0.1%). — retail instalment sales paper, \$1,156 million (0.5%).
- Life insurance companies' policy loans, \$1,202 million (6.8%).
- Department stores and furniture, television, radio and household appliance stores, \$1,265 million (5.8%).
- Quebec savings banks' personal loans, \$70 million (25.0%).

For further information, order the August 1976 issue of *Consumer Credit* (61-004, 30¢/\$3), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304 or Telex 053-3585), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Radio Air-Time Sales

Gross national AM and FM radio air-time sales totalled \$7.1 million in July, up 26.8% from a year earlier. Agency and other commissions left national sales at \$6.1 million.

Net local air-time sales were reported at \$13.5 million in the latest month, an increase of 18.4% from July 1975.

For further information, order the Communications Service Bulletin (56-001, \$1.40 per year), or contact P.T. Crosby (613-996-9274), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Labour Costs in Canada

The results of the first survey of employer labour costs in the Services to Business Management group show that total compensation in 1975 amounted to \$11,242 for each employee of which \$10,615 represented salaries, wages and other direct payments and the remaining \$627 represented employer payments to employee welfare and benefit plans.

Average costs per employee are derived from total employment. Information obtained in this survey shows that part-time and casual employment in Employment Agencies and Personnel Suppliers, and in Security and Investigation Services represented 90% and 34% of the total employment in these two activities, respectively. Consequently, the average employer costs for the full year for the industry group as a whole are biased downwards. With these two activities removed, the average total compensation amounted to \$12,877 of which \$12,142 represented direct payments and \$735 represented employer payments to welfare and benefit plans.

Full details of employee compensation in this industry group are now available in the publication *Labour Costs in Canada: Services to Business Management, 1975* (72-617, \$1.05).

The Labour Costs Survey is designed to provide information regarding the composition of total employee compensation and to measure the significance of those items frequently referred to as "fringe benefits".

Total employee compensation comprises not only wages and salaries but also the costs to employers of a number of compulsory and voluntary welfare benefit plans. The survey also divides wages and salaries into remuneration paid for services actually rendered and that for paid absences such as Vacations, Holidays and Sick Leave. Total employee compensation also includes a number of cash payments to employees which are over and above regular salaries and wages.

In addition to the above-noted report there are nine other publications available in the *Labour Costs in Canada* series. For information regarding these publications, please contact the User Advisory Service Division (613-992-4734), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6, or the regional offices.

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in August were estimated at \$4,083.3 million, up 14.4% from August 1975.

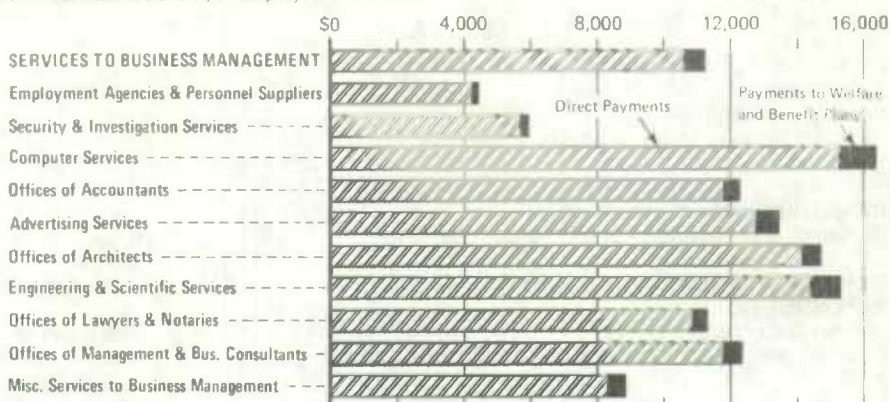
In the consumer goods trades, sales of tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks rose 38.9% from the corresponding month last year. In the industrial goods trades, the component for other construction materials and supplies, including lumber showed an increase of 30.1%.

Wholesale inventories were valued at \$6,872.5 million in August, up 8.0% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the August 1976 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, 15¢/\$1.50).

Services to Business Management, Canada, 1975 Total Compensation, All Employees

(Annual Cost in Dollars per Employee)



Source: *Labour Costs in Canada: Services to Business Management, 1975* (72-617)

Department Store Sales and Stocks

Department store sales reached \$487.3 million in August, an increase of 6.0% from \$459.9 million in August 1975.

Sales rose in 28 of the 40 departments in the latest month; the largest gains were posted by hardware, paints, wallpaper, etc. (27.4%) and plumbing, heating and building materials (27.2%).

All provinces except Manitoba (-0.4%) reported increased sales over August 1975 with a high of 11.4% for Quebec. Increases for metropolitan areas included: Montreal, 14.6%; Toronto, 4.7%; and Vancouver, 0.1%. Sales in Winnipeg showed no change from the previous year.

Inventories held in August (at selling price) were valued at \$1,885.8 million, up 30.4% from August 1975.

For further information, order the August 1976 issue of *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (63-002, 40¢/\$4), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Restaurant Statistics

Restaurants in Canada had total estimated receipts of \$220.7 million in August, an increase of 9.6% from a year earlier. Sales were up in all provinces.

Restaurant receipts for the latest month, by province and with percentage gains over August 1975 in brackets:

- Ontario, \$83.2 million (11.1%); Quebec, \$68.2 million (11.4%); British Columbia, \$22.8 million (4.0%); Alberta, \$16.0 million (5.9%); Manitoba, \$11.5 million (8.3%); Saskatchewan, \$7.0 million (8.2%); Nova Scotia, \$5.2 million (15.2%); New Brunswick, \$3.4 million (2.5%); Newfoundland, \$2.7 million (5.0%); and Prince Edward Island, \$691,000 (1.5%).

Cumulatively, restaurant receipts for the first eight months of 1976 totalled an estimated \$1,463.9 million, up 11.5% from the corresponding period in 1975.

For further information, order the August 1976 issue of *Restaurant Statistics* (63-011, 15¢/\$1.50).

Housing Starts

New residential construction activity remained strong in July with housing starts in Canadian centres of 10,000 population and over increasing 9.8% to 20,630 units from 18,784 a year earlier.

Housing starts recorded in the latest month, by province and with July 1975 figures in brackets: Ontario, 6,116 (6,774); Quebec, 5,624 (3,784); Alberta, 2,894 (1,599); British Columbia, 2,552 (3,398); Saskatchewan, 1,206 (1,138); Manitoba, 950 (431); New Brunswick, 498 (521); Newfoundland, 425 (361); Nova Scotia, 341 (755); and Prince Edward Island, 24 (23).

For the first seven months of 1976, housing starts in urban centres totalled 119,742 units, up 43.3% from 83,578 in January-July 1975.

For further information, order the July 1976 issue of *Housing Starts and Completions* (64-002, 40¢/\$4).

Campus Book Stores, 1975-76

Retail sales of campus book stores rose to \$73.3 million in 1975-76, up 19.6% over the previous year. Text books accounted for 61.8% of total sales, trade books 12.7% and stationery and supplies 17.1%.

Further details will be published in *Campus Book Stores, 1975-76* (63-219, 70¢), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9305), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

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Fruit and Vegetable Production, October 1976	22-003	40¢/\$3	1974	26-219	70¢
Production of Eggs and Poultry, August 1976	23-003	30¢/\$3	Oil Pipe Line Transport, July 1976	55-001	30¢/\$3
Production of Maple Products, 1976 and Value of Maple Products, 1975	22-204	35¢	Pack, Shipments and Stocks of Selected Canned Fruits and Vegetables, August 1976	32-011	30¢/\$3
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Hospital Indicators, January- March 1976	83-001	\$1.75/\$7	Fruit and Vegetable Preservation — Vol. 5, No. 9, 1976 Pack of Frozen Fruits and Vegetables as Reported up to the end of August 1976	32-023	/ \$1.40
Nursing in Canada: Canadian Nursing Statistics, 1975	83-226	\$2.10	Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded tapes — Vol. 5, No. 8, Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada, August 1976	47-004	/ \$1.40
INDUSTRY PRODUCT			MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES		
Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry (Including the Index of Industrial Production), July 1976	61-005	40¢/\$4	Department Store Sales by Regions, August 1976	63-004	/ \$1.50
Survey of Production, 1974	61-202	\$1.05	Farm Implement and Equipment Sales, January 1 to August 31, 1976	63-009	15¢/\$1.50
LABOUR FORCE SURVEY			Merchandising Inventories, July 1976	63-014	40¢/\$4
The Labour Force, September 1976	71-001	55¢/\$5.50	Sales Financing, July 1976	63-013	30¢/\$3
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES			POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS		
Asphalt Roofing, August 1976	45-001	15¢/\$1.50	Population Estimates for Census Divisions, 1974	91-206	70¢
Breweries, August 1976	32-019	15¢/\$1.50	PRICES		
Cement, August 1976	44-001	15¢/\$1.50	Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities, September 1976	62-009	30¢/\$3
Coal and Coke Statistics, June 1976	45-002	40¢/\$4	Construction Price Statistics, Quarterly Report, Third Quarter 1976	62-008	\$1.40/\$5.60
Concrete Products Manufacturers, 1974	44-205	70¢	TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS		
Copper and Nickel Production, August 1976	26-003	15¢/\$1.50	Airport Activity Statistics, 1975	51-203	\$1.05
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers, August 1976	36-004	15¢/\$1.50	Railway Operating Statistics, July 1976	52-003	30¢/\$3
Distilled Beverage Spirits and Industrial Ethyl Alcohol, August 1976	32-021	15¢/\$1.50	Railway Transport — Part II: Financial Statistics, 1975	52-208	70¢
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Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, June 1976	31-001	55¢/\$5.50	Urban Transit, August 1976	53-003	15¢/\$1.50
Machine Shops, 1974	42-207	70¢			
Manufacturers of Electrical Industrial Equipment, 1974	43-207	70¢			
Manufacturers of Toilet Preparations, 1974	46-215	70¢			