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Weekly Bulletin

Labour Income

Preliminary estimates indicate that labour income increased 14.0% in 1975 following gains of 16.9% in 1974 and 13.4% in 1973. Wages and salaries in the goods-producing industries rose 10.0% while those in the service-producing industries advanced 16.3%.

Total labour income in December at \$7.40 billion was up 9.0% from December 1974.

Adjusted for seasonal variation, the December estimate of \$7.58 billion showed an increase of 1.1% from the November level. Wages and salaries advanced 1.3% in the goods-producing industries and 1.0% in the service-producing industries.

During the fourth quarter of 1975, seasonally-adjusted labour income advanced by 1.6%, after gains of 4.5%, 2.9% and 1.7% in the preceding quarters.

For further information, order the December 1975 issue of *Estimates of Labour Income* (72-005, 40¢/\$4), or contact Mrs. G. Gauthier (613-995-8067), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V2.

Department Store Sales and Stocks

Department store sales reached \$867.5 million in December, an increase of 18.2% from \$734.1 million in December 1974.

Sales rose in 30 of the 40 departments in the latest month; the largest gains were recorded by food and kindred products (58.6%), photographic equipment and supplies (40.4%) and millinery (39.9%).

All provinces reported increased sales over December 1974 with a high of 23.3% for Saskatchewan. Sales were up 24.1% in Montreal, 20.7% in Toronto, 15.8% in Winnipeg and 10.5% in Vancouver.

Inventories held in December (at selling price) were valued at \$1.34 billion, up 3.2% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the December 1975 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 0V4.

Motor Vehicle Production

Canadian production of motor vehicles totalled 137,783 units in January, up 49.7% from 92,030 a year earlier.

Passenger car production increased to 98,919 units from 64,658 and production of commercial vehicles rose to 38,864 units from 27,372 in January 1975.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Motor Vehicle Shipments* (42-002, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact J.S. More (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Dec. 209.28p	213.09p	13.8
Labour Income (\$ million)	Nov. 7,509p	7,605p	12.0
Persons with Jobs (million)	Jan. 9.15	9.40	3.5
Unemployed	Jan. 800,000	693,000	5.4

INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Dec. 1,338	1,668	3.2
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Dec. 15,415p	15,090r	5.1
Wholesale (\$ million)	Dec. 6,109	5,881	2.9

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Dec. 7,300p	7,357r	9.3
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Dec. 9,846p	9,783r	-4.7

PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Jan. 145.1	144.3	9.6
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Dec. 157.2	156.8	6.4
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Dec. 501.6	500.5r	3.9

CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Nov. 858.3p	9,725	11.0
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Dec. 19,758	181,846	7.3

ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tons)	Nov. 2,402	25,275	22.1
Electricity Generation (billion kwh.)	Dec. 26.2	272.6	-2.3
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	June 265.1	1,731.8	-0.9
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Dec. 57.5	622.0	-3.8

FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Jan. 2,823	2,823	4.3
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Jan. 3,026	3,026	6.9

PRODUCTION

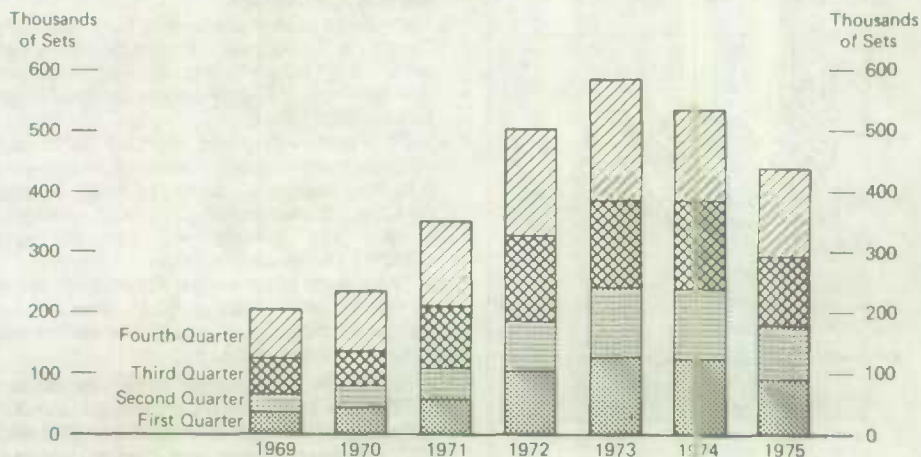
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Jan. 137.8	137.8	49.7
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Jan. 1,150	1,150	-9.8

SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Dec. 867.5	5,776	13.9
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Dec. 7,237p	85,101	6.0
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Dec. 648.7	7,243	22.4
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Dec. 5,770	50,482	13.5
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Dec. 3,818	45,377	5.0

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

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



Source: Radio and Television Receiving Sets (43-004)

Employment, Earnings and Hours

Average weekly earnings in Canadian industry at \$209.28 in December were up 13.8% from \$183.91 a year earlier.

First estimates show that (unadjusted) average weekly earnings (by region) were highest in British Columbia (\$236.88), followed by Alberta (\$217.55), Ontario (\$210.84), Quebec (\$203.17), Newfoundland (\$197.27), Saskatchewan (\$197.13), Manitoba (\$193.80), New Brunswick (\$186.03), Nova Scotia (\$177.91) and Prince Edward Island (\$157.54).

Average weekly earnings in December (by industry division) were as follows: mining, \$297.89; transportation, communication and other utilities, \$240.64; forestry, \$227.67; manufacturing, \$221.33; finance, insurance and real estate, \$198.85; trade, \$164.61; and service, \$152.66. (N.B. Construction industry earnings were not available).

Compared with December 1974, average hourly earnings were up 19.6% in mining and 14.4% in manufacturing.

For further information, order the December 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.

International Travel

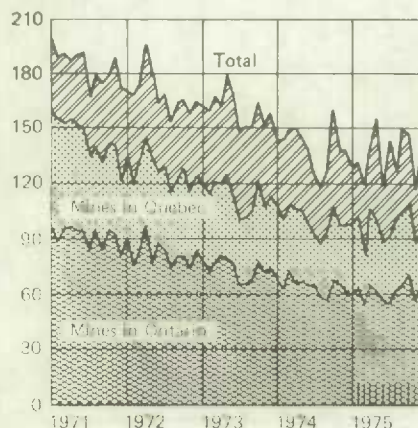
Preliminary statistics for January show that 1.4 million U.S. visitors entered Canada, down 2.6% from January 1975. Canadian residents returning from visits to the United States increased 11.6% to 2.2 million.

Visitors entering Canada from countries other than the United States increased 4.2% from a year earlier to 40,200. Canadian residents returning from these countries numbered 197,200, up 23.7% from January 1975.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *International Travel—Advance Information* (66-002, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact M. W. Valiquette (613-995-0847), International Travel Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Gold Production, Canada

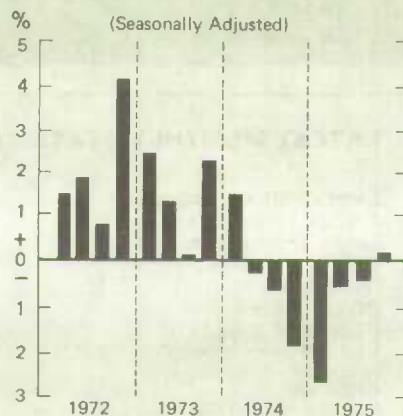
Thousands of Troy Ounces



Source: Gold Production (26-004)

Index of Industrial Production

Quarter-to-Quarter Percentage Change



Source: Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry (61-005)

Residential Building Construction Input Price Index (1971=100)

The residential building construction input price index for Canada advanced to 153.2 in January, an increase of 0.8% from December and up 13.6% from a year earlier.

Prices of materials used in residential building construction increased 12.9% over the 12 months from January 1975; labour costs rose 14.9%.

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

- Prairie Provinces, 16.3%; Quebec, 16.2%; British Columbia, 14.0%; Atlantic Provinces, 12.4%; and Ontario, 11.7%.

Labour cost indexes showed the following increases (by region): Prairie Provinces, 22.2%; Quebec, 17.1%; Atlantic Provinces, 13.7%; Ontario, 12.4%; and British Columbia, 12.1%.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Construction Price Statistics, Monthly Bulletin* (62-007, \$4 per year).

Railway Carloadings

The volume of revenue carload freight loaded in Canada in January was down 8.5% from a year earlier to 16.2 million tons. Rail shipments received from U.S. connections declined 10.3% to 1.7 million tons.

On a commodity basis, significant percentage decreases were noted in loadings of pulpwood (-79.7%), newsprint paper (-61.1%), sulphur (-44.6%), trailer-on-flat-car traffic (-41.5%), primary and manufactured iron and steel (-36.2%) and wheat (-30.3%).

The volume of passenger automobiles moved by rail in January was up 80.4% from January 1975; coal movements rose 20.7%; and iron ore shipments increased 11.5%.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9276), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Real Domestic Product (RDP)

(1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product increased 1.0% to 118.1 in December from the upward revised level of 117.0 in November.

The main contributors to the increase in RDP were retail trade, transportation, communication and storage, wholesale trade, construction and forestry. In retail trade, most of the increase was due to significant gains made by motor vehicle dealers (10.7%), department stores (4.9%) and food stores (3.6%). The transportation, communication and storage component increased 3.8%, almost entirely due to the resumption of national postal service in the first week of December. Increased residential and non-residential building activity accounted for a 1.6% growth in the construction industry component.

During the fourth quarter of 1975, the seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product increased 0.7%. Construction, retail trade, community, business and personal services and manufacturing were the major contributors to the over-all rise in production.

In 1975, real domestic product declined 0.2% from 1974. The index of industrial production declined 4.8% during the same period. Goods-producing industries recorded a decline of 4.5%, while service-producing industries increased 2.7%.

Among the goods-producing industries which declined, the most significant decreases were recorded by manufacturing (-5.1%), mining (-7.1%), construction (-2.4%), and agriculture (-1.6%). For the service-producing industries, increases were made in transportation, storage and communication (0.9%), finance, insurance and real estate (3.8%), community, business and personal services (3.9%) and public administration and defence (4.1%). Trade remained relatively unchanged during the year, with retail trade increasing 1.5% and wholesale trade declining 2.3%.

For further information, order the December 1975 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.

THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Consumer Credit, January
Consumer Price Movements, February
General Wholesale Price Index, January
Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries, January
The Labour Force, February

Retail Trade

Seasonally-adjusted December retail sales jumped 5.3% from November to a level of \$4.74 billion.

Total retail trade without seasonal adjustment reached \$5.77 billion, up 25.5% from a year earlier. All provinces had sales increases over December 1974 with the largest advance in Ontario (31.5%). Sales were up 30.9% in Toronto, 18.0% in Winnipeg, 17.0% in Montreal and 12.2% in Vancouver.

Year-to-year gains were registered in all of the 28 trade groups with the largest increases recorded by motor vehicle dealers (55.4%), automotive parts and accessories stores (38.9%) and sporting goods and accessories stores (38.4%).

Revised data for November show retail sales for the month at \$4.70 billion, up 15.1% from November 1974.

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

Major Appliances Sales

Canadian manufacturers' domestic sales of major appliances in December ran well over year-earlier levels.

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

- Refrigerators, 45,419 (up 4.9%); home and farm freezers, 42,643 (up 38.2%);
- Stoves and ranges (electric), 35,072 (up 3.8%);
- Automatic washing machines, 34,934 (up 70.3%); electric and gas clothes dryers, 32,218 (up 56.0%);
- Television sets, 50,915 (up 8.8%).

Manufacturers' sales in December of 45,630 Canadian-made colour television sets represented an increase of 13.8% from a year earlier; black-and-white set sales decreased 20.9% to 5,285 units.

For further information, order the December 1975 issue of: *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).

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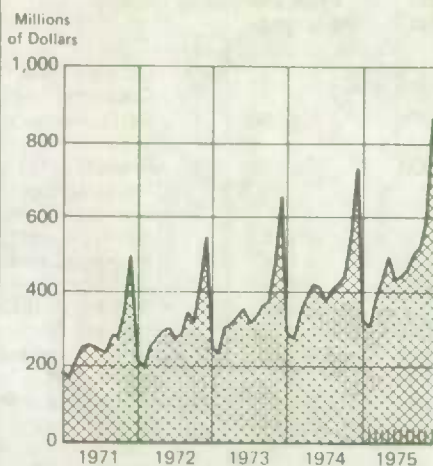
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Please enclose money order or cheque made payable to the order of: Receiver-General for Canada.

Department Store Sales



Source: Department Store Sales and Stocks (63-002)

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

The non-residential building construction input price index for Canada rose to 267.1 in January, an increase of 0.5% from December and up 11.8% from a year earlier.

The materials component of the total index advanced 6.9% over the 12 months from January 1975; labour costs increased 15.7%.

Prices of lumber and lumber products used in non-residential building construction jumped 12.6% during this period, smaller increases were noted for: concrete products (11.0%); plumbing, heating and other equipment (4.7%); steel and metal work (1.7%); and other materials (12.7%). Electrical equipment prices declined 1.4%.

For further information, order the January 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.

Computer Service Industry, 1974

In 1974 there were 345 companies in Canada primarily engaged in providing processing, software and system, maintenance, education and other computer-related services with total operating revenue reported at \$211.0 million.

Another 35 companies were primarily engaged in providing sales/lease or rental of A.D.P. hardware services with reported total operating revenue of \$612.0 million.

In addition, an estimated \$100.1 million was reported by 381 companies and institutions classified to another major industry group such as manufacturing, education, finance etc. These companies and institutions were engaged in providing computer services to outside users as a secondary activity.

For further information, order *Computer Service Industry, 1974* (63-222, \$1.05), or contact E. Yablonski (613-996-9301), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

Preliminary Statement of Canadian Trade

Measured on a balance-of-payments basis, Canada's seasonally-adjusted merchandise imports in January rose 7% from the preceding month to \$3.16 billion while exports declined marginally to \$2.85 billion. The merchandise trade deficit increased to \$309 million from \$91 million in December.

Seasonally-adjusted imports, on a customs basis, increased 13.7% in January to a level of \$3.26 billion.

Seasonally-adjusted exports at \$3.06 billion were 7.8% higher than December and exceeded \$3 billion for the first time. Exports of metallic ores and concentrates dropped sharply from a high December level and there was a smaller decline in shipments of wheat. But deliveries of other commodities to overseas markets showed widespread increases. Exports of lumber to the United States were sharply higher in January as were those of trucks and automotive parts; however, shipments of metallic ores, crude petroleum, newsprint, machinery and cars to the U.S. were down from December levels.

In January, unadjusted exports of \$2.82 billion were \$118 million (4.3%) above those for the corresponding month in 1975. Imports at \$3.03 billion in January showed an increase of \$197 million (6.9%) from a year earlier.

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

Iron Ore

Canadian mines shipped 1.98 million short tons of iron ore in January, down 18.7% from 2.44 million short tons a year earlier.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Iron Ore* (26-005, 15¢/\$1.50).

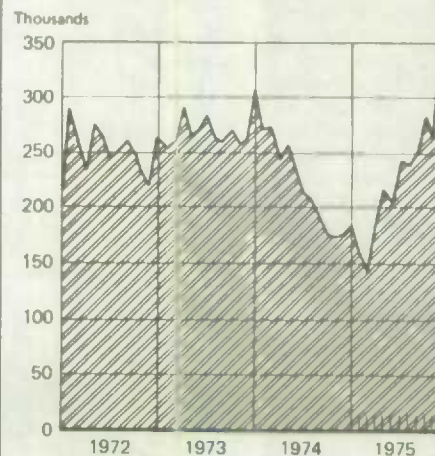
Asbestos

Canadian producers' shipments of asbestos increased 7.0% to 122,187 short tons in January from 114,164 short tons a year earlier.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Asbestos* (26-001, 15¢/\$1.50).

Housing Starts in Canada

Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates



Source: Housing Starts and Completions (64-002)



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