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# INFORMAT

## Weekly Bulletin

### Department Store Sales by Regions

Department store sales rose to \$348.8 million in February, up 14.0% from a year earlier. Increases were recorded in all regions of Canada.

Department store sales by regions for the latest month, with percentage increases over February 1975 in brackets:

- Ontario, \$126.8 million (12.1%); Quebec, \$64.9 million (13.4%); British Columbia, \$57.7 million (12.4%); Alberta, \$49.1 million (23.3%); Atlantic Provinces, \$20.4 million (16.8%); Manitoba, \$19.6 million (6.1%); and Saskatchewan, \$10.2 million (22.6%).

For further information, order the February 1976 issue of *Department Store Sales by Regions* (63-004, \$1.50 per year).

### Farm Equipment Sales

Sales of farm implements and equipment in January-February 1976 were valued at \$96.7 million (dealers' cost), up 47.0% from \$65.8 million in the first two months of 1975.

Sales of repair parts for farm equipment rose 8.5% to \$20.5 million in the latest period.

For further information, order the February 1976 issue of *Farm Implement and Equipment Sales* (63-009, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact Y. Lebel (613-996-9307), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

### Trusted Pension Plans

Trusted pension plans had a record \$936.7 million cash flow in the fourth quarter of 1975, up from \$835.7 million in the corresponding period in 1974.

Assets of trusted pension plans which had a book value of \$2.3 billion in 1957 have snowballed to a level of almost \$21 billion in 1975 and cash flows into these funds have increased in a similarly dramatic fashion. Combined contributions from employers and employees have grown from \$390 million in 1960 to \$2.5 billion in 1975 and as pension plans matured, cash outflow in the form of pension payments has increased to an annual level of \$850 million.

For further information, order *Quarterly Survey of Trusted Pension Plans, Fourth Quarter 1975* (74-001, 35¢/\$1.40).

### LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

#### EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Feb.* 218.39p	216.18p	12.5
Labour Income (\$ million)	Jan.* 7,528p	7,482p	12.9
Persons with Jobs (million)	Mar.* 9.26	9.18	3.6
Unemployed	Mar.* 759,000	800,000	2.7

#### INVENTORIES

Department Store (\$ million)	Jan. 1,431	1,338	21.2
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Feb.* 15,785p	15,547r	5.2
Wholesale (\$ million)	Feb.* 6,469	6,236	4.2

#### ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb.* 7,249p	6,897r	12.9
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb.* 9,650p	9,698r	-6.8

#### PRICES

Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	Mar. 146.2	145.6	9.0
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Jan. 157.7	157.1r	5.5
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Jan. 501.7	500.8r	3.5

#### CONSTRUCTION

Building Permits (\$ million)	Dec. 830.4p	10,590	14.1
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb.* 11,615	24,065	98.8

#### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tons)	Jan.* 2,519	2,519	11.5
Electricity Generation (billion kwh.)	Feb.* 25.0	52.5	4.1
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Aug. 266.3	2,276.6	-0.3
Petroleum Refining (million barrels)	Dec. 57.5	622.0	-3.8

#### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Feb. 2,928	5,753	10.3
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Feb. 2,902	5,801	7.0

#### PRODUCTION

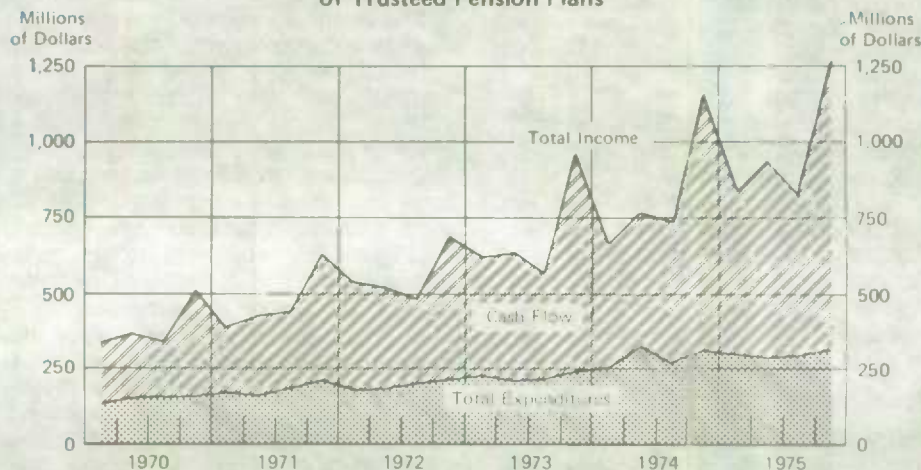
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Feb. 135.9	273.7	37.5
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Feb. 1,083	2,241	-7.0

#### SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Jan. 396.1	396.1	19.0
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb.* 7,297p	14,276	10.7
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Feb. 502.5	915.4	7.4
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Feb.* 3,731	7,605	16.9
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Feb.* 3,596	7,060	13.3

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

Quarterly Estimates of Income and Expenditures of Trusted Pension Plans



Source: Quarterly Survey of Trusted Pension Plans (74-001)



### Retail Trade

Seasonally-adjusted February retail sales increased 0.5% from January to a level of \$4.57 billion.

Total retail trade without seasonal adjustment reached \$3.73 billion, up 15.7% from a year earlier. All provinces recorded increased sales over February 1975 with the largest advance in Alberta (26.6%). Sales were up 18.1% in Winnipeg, 13.1% in Toronto, 9.4% in Montreal and 7.9% in Vancouver.

Year-to-year gains were registered in all 28 trade groups with the largest increases recorded by sporting goods and accessories stores (29.3%) and service stations (28.6%).

Revised data for January show retail sales for the month at \$3.87 billion, up 18.0% from January 1975.

For further information, order the February 1976 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, 55¢/\$5.50), or contact the Retail Trade Section (613-996-9304), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

### Consumer Credit

Consumer credit outstanding on the books of selected credit holders reporting monthly totalled \$18.72 billion at the end of February, an increase of 14.7% from a year earlier.

Outstanding balances held by these credit grantors in the latest month, with percentage changes from February 28, 1975:

- Chartered banks' personal loans, \$13.33 billion (20.8%);
- Sales finance and consumer companies'—small loans, \$243 million (-14.4%);—large loans, \$1.50 billion (0.3%);—retail instalment sales paper, \$1.12 billion (-1.8%);
- Life insurance companies' policy loans, \$1.17 billion (7.7%);
- Department stores and furniture, television, radio and household appliance stores, \$1.30 billion (5.3%);
- Quebec savings banks' personal loans, \$59 million (34.1%).

For further information, order the February 1976 issue of *Consumer Credit* (61-004, 30¢/\$3).

### Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in February reached an estimated \$3.60 billion, up 13.3% from February 1975.

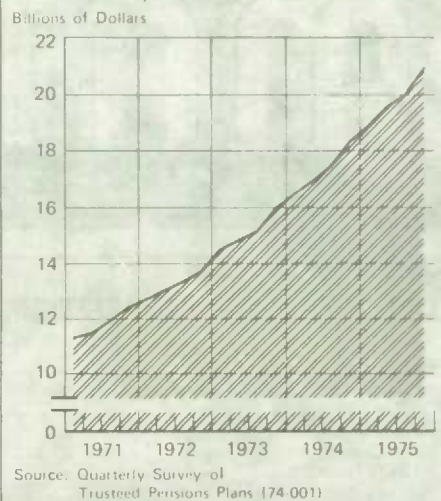
One of the most notable changes in the consumer goods trades was registered by the groceries and food specialties component, showing an increase of 10.9%. In the industrial goods trades, sales of other construction materials and supplies, including lumber rose 36.3% from a year earlier.

Wholesale inventories were valued at \$6.47 billion in the latest month, up 4.2% from February of last year.

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

### Trusted Pension Plans

Quarterly Estimates of Assets Held



### Real Domestic Product (1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product increased 0.5% to 119.1 in February from 118.6 in January. Output of goods-producing industries rose 1.1% and service-producing industries showed an 0.1% advance.

Within the goods-producing industries, increases were recorded in manufacturing, agriculture and forestry.

Manufacturing output rose 1.6% in February with non-durables manufacturing up 1.9%. Resumption of production at a number of pulp and paper mills that were previously strike-bound accounted for a 16% jump in output in that industry; and the rubber products industries also registered strong growth in the month. Durables manufacturing increased 1.3% due to significant advances by iron and steel mills, wood products industries and electrical products industries. Agricultural production was up 2.1%, while increased logging operations led to an 8.7% rise in forestry.

Service-producing industries remained relatively unchanged from the January level. Small increases took place in trade (0.2%), finance, insurance and real estate (0.4%) and community, business and personal services (0.1%) while public administration and defence declined (-0.5%).

Within trade, wholesale trade rose 1.3% mainly on the strength of higher sales of farm and industrial machinery and equipment. Retail trade declined 0.5%, reflecting decreases for department stores, motor vehicle dealers and furniture, television, radio and appliance stores.

For further information, order the February 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.

### The Labour Force

Canada's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate edged down to 6.9% in March from 7.0% in February.

Last month the unemployment rate for men 25 years of age and over decreased to 3.8% from 4.0% in February while for women 25 and over it increased to 6.1% from 5.9%. For persons aged 15 to 24, the unemployment rate decreased to 12.8% from 13.1%.

Between February and March, the seasonally-adjusted participation rate—percentage of the population 15 and over included in the labour force—rose to 61.6% from 61.3%.

On an actual basis, the number of persons employed increased to 9.26 million in March from 9.18 million in February and was up from 8.94 million in March 1975.

The actual unemployment total was 759,000 or 7.6% of the 10.02 million included in the labour force last month. By province, unemployment rates were: Newfoundland, 14.7%; New Brunswick, 12.6%; Nova Scotia, 9.5%; British Columbia, 9.1%; Quebec, 8.4%; Ontario, 6.8%; Manitoba, 5.7%; Saskatchewan, 5.1%; and Alberta, 4.7%.

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *The Labour Force* (71-001, 55¢/\$5.50).

### Housing Starts

New residential construction activity remained at a high level in February with housing starts in Canadian centres of 10,000 population and over more than doubling to 11,615 units from 4,973 a year earlier.

Housing starts recorded in the latest month, by province and with February 1975 figures in brackets: Ontario, 3,313 (1,656); Alberta, 2,516 (671); Quebec, 2,222 (1,369); British Columbia, 1,747 (930); Nova Scotia, 415 (87); Manitoba, 596 (118); Saskatchewan, 498 (97); Newfoundland, 57 (28); New Brunswick, 22 (17); and Prince Edward Island, 3 (—).

For the first two months of 1976, housing starts in urban centres totalled 24,065 units, up 98.8% from 12,106 in January-February 1975.

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

### THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Estimates of Labour Income, February  
Motor Vehicle Production, March  
New Motor Vehicle Sales, March  
Railway Carloadings, March  
Summary of Foreign Trade, March



### NEW . . . NOW AVAILABLE

Domestic and Foreign Control of Manufacturing Establishments in Canada is the title of a new biennial series of reports that will provide a wealth of information on control of manufacturing at the national, provincial and Census Metropolitan Area levels.

Until now, statistics issued on a regular basis pertaining to domestic and foreign control of manufacturing have been based on company returns. By utilizing returns of individual establishments (plants), this new series is able to distribute the data geographically and industrially in a fineness of detail not possible with data for entire companies, which may be active in several industries and regions. Additionally, this system makes available new data on employment and value added at the previously-mentioned levels.

The first issue of this new publication covers 1969 and 1970 and contains extensive analytical comment on these new series. For further information, order *Domestic and Foreign Control of Manufacturing Establishments in Canada, 1969 and 1970* (31-401, \$3.50) or contact H.D. Potter (613-992-9654), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

A publication on a related subject, *Industrial Organization and Concentration in the Manufacturing, Mining and Logging Industries*, begun as an occasional paper for 1968, will now also become a biennial series. This publication shows, among other things, the relative importance of the largest four, eight, etc., enterprises in selected industries. The latest issue of this report (31-402, \$2.10) covers 1970, with publication of 1972 data expected within the next few months.

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### Employment, Earnings and Hours

Average weekly earnings in Canadian industry at \$218.39 in February were up 12.5% from \$194.18 a year earlier.

First estimates show that (unadjusted) average weekly earnings (by province) were highest in British Columbia (\$247.30), followed by Alberta (\$225.91), Ontario (\$219.63), Newfoundland (\$212.74), Quebec (\$212.69), Saskatchewan (\$204.23), Manitoba (\$199.04), New Brunswick (\$197.13), Nova Scotia (\$185.14), and Prince Edward Island (\$165.88).

Average weekly earnings in February (by industrial division) were as follows: construction, \$318.65; mining, \$309.34; forestry, \$284.27; transportation, communication and other utilities, \$248.91; manufacturing, \$230.90; finance, insurance and real estate, \$206.63; trade, \$169.35; and service, \$156.33.

Compared with February 1975, average hourly earnings were up 18.6% in mining, 16.3% in construction and 13.3% in manufacturing.

For further information, order the *February 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.

### Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries

Manufacturers' seasonally-adjusted new orders in February were estimated at \$7.39 billion, down 2.0% from \$7.55 billion (revised) in January. New orders for durable goods decreased 1.4% to \$3.34 billion and those for non-durable goods fell 2.6% to \$4.05 billion.

The backlog of unfilled orders in all manufacturing industries in February, seasonally adjusted, was estimated at \$9.60 billion, down 0.9% from the previous month.

Total inventory owned by manufacturers, seasonally adjusted, was 1.2% higher at \$15.68 billion.

The seasonally-adjusted ratio of total inventory owned — to shipments rose to 2.09:1 in February from the revised January ratio of 2.01:1, while the finished products — to shipments ratio increased to 0.70:1 from 0.67:1 (revised).

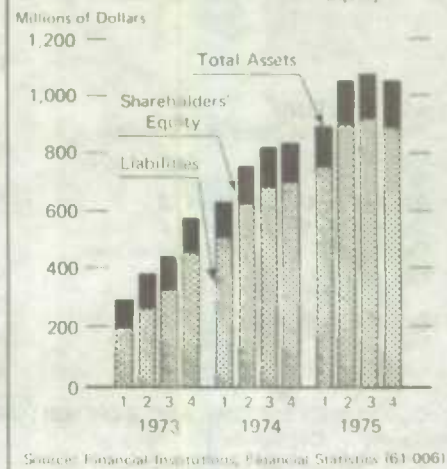
Manufacturers' shipments in February, seasonally adjusted, were estimated at \$7.48 billion, a decline of 2.9% from January.

Not adjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in February at an estimated \$7.30 billion were up 12.2% from a year earlier. Cumulative shipments for the first two months of 1976 totalled \$14.28 billion, up 10.7% from January-February 1975.

For further information, order the *February 1976 issue of Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, 55¢/\$5.50).

### Mortgage Investment Trust Corporations

Quarterly Statements of Estimated Assets, Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity



### Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities

Between February and March, consumer price indexes rose in 11 regional cities, declined in two and remained unchanged over-all in Thunder Bay. Movements ranged from an 0.3% decrease in Montreal to a 2.4% rise in Vancouver.

Main contributors to these latest increases included higher charges for shelter and household operation items, increased clothing prices, higher automobile insurance premiums in some western provinces and increased local transit fares in some Ontario centres. Food at home prices generally declined in most cities while restaurant meal charges were up.

Between March 1975 and March 1976, consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities with increases recorded as follows: Vancouver, 11.3%; Calgary, 10.3%; Halifax, 10.2%; Winnipeg, 10.1%; Thunder Bay, 9.9%; Regina, 9.7%; Edmonton, 9.7%; Saskatoon, 9.5%; St. John's, 9.2%; Saint John, 9.0%; Ottawa, 8.7%; Toronto, 8.6%; Montreal, 7.9%; and Quebec City, 7.7%.

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

### Unemployment Insurance Payments

Net benefit paid to claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act reached \$342 million in January, an increase of 12% from the \$307 million disbursed a year earlier. The average weekly benefit at \$91.63 was up 11% from January 1975.

Persons receiving unemployment insurance benefits in January numbered 860,000, up 22% from December. Some 35% of beneficiaries were under 25 years of age—almost equal proportions of males and females.

There were 277,000 claims filed in January by persons seeking unemployment insurance benefits, down 22% from 356,000 in January 1975.





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	Cata- logue	Price per issue/year		Cata- logue	Price per issue/year
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Quarterly Estimates of the Canadian Balance of International Payments, Fourth Quarter 1975	67-001	\$1.05/\$4.20	Particle Board, February 1976	36-003	15¢/\$1.50
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<b>CONSUMER INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>			Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, January 1976	35-003	30¢/\$3
Survey of Consumer Finances: Volume II — Selected Reports, 1970	13-551	\$2.10	Products Shipped by Canadian Manufacturers, 1971	31-211	\$2.80
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Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, October 1975	73-001	40¢/\$4	Department Store Sales by Regions February 1976	63-004	15¢/\$1.50
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