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# INFORMAT

## Weekly Bulletin

### Department Store Sales and Stocks

Department store sales reached \$348.8 million in February, an increase of 14.0% from \$305.9 million in February 1975.

Sales rose in 39 of the 40 departments in the latest month; the largest gains were recorded by furs (40.6%) and photographic equipment and supplies (34.7%).

All provinces reported increased sales over February 1975 with a high of 43.1% for Prince Edward Island. Sales were up 13.2% in Montreal, 7.0% in Toronto, 5.2% in Winnipeg and 5.0% in Vancouver.

Inventories held in February (at selling price) were valued at \$1.54 billion, up 19.2% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the February 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 0V4.

### Report on Job Vacancies

Preliminary estimates for the first quarter of 1976 show a decrease in the average number of vacant jobs from the corresponding period in 1975. Vacancies for full-time, part-time and casual jobs declined to 46,400 from 61,300.

Vacancies for full-time jobs dropped 23.8% in the latest period to 42,800. The number of longer-term vacancies — jobs unfilled for more than four weeks — decreased 38.2% to 15,600.

For every 1,000 existing jobs in the latest three-month period, six were vacant, a decrease of two vacancies per 1,000 jobs from the first quarter of 1975.

For further information, order *Quarterly Report on Job Vacancies, First Quarter 1976* (71-002, \$1.05/\$4.20), or contact J.A. Boucek (613-992-2006), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

### Canada Pension Plan

Preliminary data show that the Canada Pension Plan had a surplus of \$1.47 billion in 1975 on a national accounts basis, up from \$1.31 billion in 1974.

Employer and employee payments into the fund rose to \$1.43 billion in 1975 from \$1.20 billion in 1974 and investment income increased to \$609 million from \$498 million. Current expenditure increased to \$562 million from \$392 million.

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

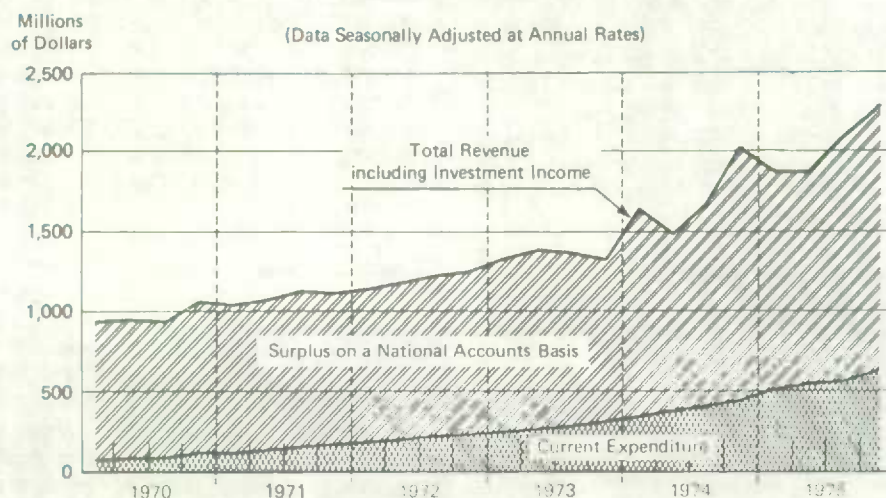
### LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

		Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
<b>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</b>				
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
<b>INVENTORIES</b>				
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
<b>ORDERS</b>				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	7,249p	6,897r	12.9
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Feb.	9,650p	9,698r	-6.8
<b>PRICES</b>				
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)	Feb.*	503.1	502.9r	4.0
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Building Permits (\$ million)	Jan.*	512.4p	512.4	1.0
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb.	11,615	24,065	98.8
<b>ENERGY</b>				
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
<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b>				
Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Mar.*	2,924	8,680	13.0
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Mar.*	3,245	9,118	10.2
<b>PRODUCTION</b>				
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Feb.	135.9	273.7	37.5
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Mar.*	1,153	3,441	-6.6
<b>SALES</b>				
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.

### Canada Pension Plan

(Data Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates)



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



### Unemployment Insurance Payments

Net benefit paid to claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act reached \$342 million in February, an increase of 19% from the \$287 million disbursed a year earlier. The average weekly benefit at \$92.52 was up 10% from February 1975.

Persons receiving unemployment insurance benefits in February numbered 891,000, up 4% from January. Of this total, 35% resided in Quebec, 29% in Ontario, 18% in the Atlantic Provinces, 11% in British Columbia and 7% in the Prairie Provinces.

There were 189,000 claims filed in February by those seeking unemployment insurance benefits, down 14% from a year earlier.

For the first two months of 1976, net payments under the act amounted to \$684 million, an increase of 15% from \$594 million paid out in January-February 1975.

For further information, order the February 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), or contact George Fincham (613-992-7461), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

### Building Permits

Building permits taken out in Canada in January totalled \$512.4 million, up 1.0% from \$507.2 million a year earlier.

Lower totals were recorded in the latest month for commercial building permits at \$132.8 million (\$239.6 million in January 1975), institutional and governmental permits at \$54.5 million (\$59.3 million) and industrial permits at \$27.5 million (\$44.8 million). But the value of residential permits jumped to \$297.7 million from \$163.5 million.

Provincial totals for building permits taken out in January, with year-earlier figures in brackets:

- Ontario, \$165.2 million (\$280.9 million); Quebec, \$119.5 million (\$45.5 million); British Columbia, \$85.8 million (\$64.6 million); Alberta, \$82.7 million (\$68.7 million); Saskatchewan, \$16.5 million (\$7.3 million); Manitoba, \$14.3 million (\$12.6 million); Nova Scotia, \$13.5 million (\$13.5 million); New Brunswick, \$8.8 million (\$11.6 million); Newfoundland, \$4.0 million (\$1.2 million); and Prince Edward Island, \$1.8 million (\$1.3 million).

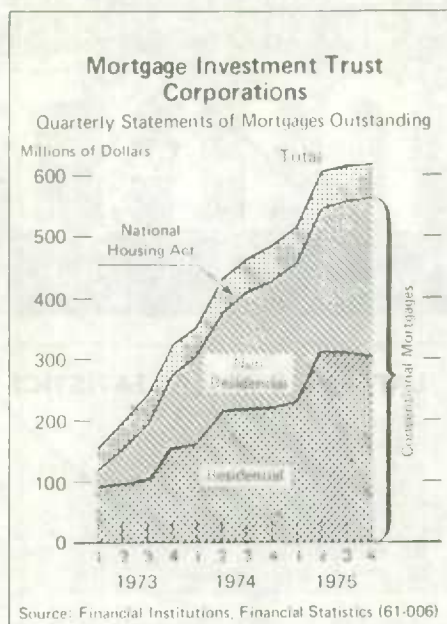
For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, 70¢/\$7).

### Coal and Coke Statistics

Production of coal in Canada increased 11.5% in January to 2.52 million tons from 2.26 million tons in January 1975. Imports decreased to 344,530 tons from 765,202 tons.

Industrial consumers used 2.61 million tons of coal in the latest month (up 344,886 tons from a year earlier) and 476,654 tons of coke (down 27,028 tons).

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Coal and Coke Statistics* (45-002, 40¢/\$4).



### Major Appliance Sales

Manufacturers' sales in February of Canadian-made television sets were again down from year-earlier levels while sales of other major appliances were mixed.

Domestic sales of major appliances recorded by Canadian manufacturers in the latest month, with percentage changes from February 1975 in brackets:

- Refrigerators, 39,211, (13.0%); home and farm freezers, 35,552 (-6.0%);
- Stoves and ranges (electric), 30,941 (-1.1%);
- Automatic washing machines, 28,689 (53.7%); electric and gas clothes dryers, 26,126 (34.7%);
- Television sets, 32,662 (-10.1%).

Manufacturers' sales in February of 28,716 colour television sets represented a decrease of 5.4% from a year earlier; black-and-white set sales dropped 34.2% to 3,946 units.

For further information, order the February 1976 issues of: *Domestic 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); or contact J.S. More (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

### Electric Power Statistics

Net generation of electricity increased 4.6% in February to 25.0 billion kilowatt hours from 23.9 billion kwh. a year earlier.

Hydro generation increased 3.7% in the latest month; thermal production rose 8.5%.

For further information, order the February 1976 issue of *Electric Power Statistics* (57-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact David Madsen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

### Statement of Canadian Trade

Measured on a balance-of-payments basis, Canada's seasonally-adjusted merchandise trade balance was in deficit by \$63 million in March, up from \$32 million in February.

The merchandise trade deficit of \$262 million in the first quarter of 1976 compared with a deficit of \$398 million in the year-earlier period. Record levels were reached by both imports at \$9.20 billion (up 8.8%) and exports at \$8.94 billion (up 10.9%).

Seasonally-adjusted exports, on a customs basis, declined 9.5% in March, including a drop of nearly 40% in exports to Japan. Wheat shipments were 50% below the January and February levels but exports of newsprint paper increased substantially.

In the first quarter of 1976, exports were 8.6% higher than in the fourth quarter of 1975. Shipments to the United Kingdom and other European Economic Community countries increased 30% and those to Japan were up over 20%.

Imports declined 7.5% in March, seasonally adjusted. The decline was broadly distributed geographically, although imports from Japan decreased 13%.

In the first quarter of 1976, imports were 7.9% higher than in the fourth quarter of 1975. Imports from Japan rose 42% while those from the United States increased only 4%. There was a sharp rise in imports of motor vehicle parts during the latest quarter.

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *Summary of External Trade* (35-001, 40¢/\$4).

### Motor Vehicle Production

Canadian production of motor vehicles reached 210,634 units in March, up 36.2% from 154,607 a year earlier.

Passenger car production increased to 161,966 units in the latest month from 125,580 and production of commercial vehicles rose to 48,668 units from 29,027 in March 1975.

For the first three months of 1976, production of motor vehicles totalled 563,961 units, an increase of 37.2% from the January-March 1975 figure of 410,940.

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *Motor Vehicle Shipments* (42-002, 15¢/\$1.50).

### THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

- Building Permits, February
- Consumer Price Movements, April
- Department Store Sales by Regions, March
- Housing Starts and Completions, March
- New Motor Vehicle Sales, March
- The Labour Force, April



### General Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)

The general wholesale price index stood at 503.1 in February, virtually unchanged from January but up 4.0% from the February 1975 level of 483.9. Five of the eight major groups included in the total index were higher while three declined.

The iron products group index rose 0.8% in February, reflecting price increases for castings and forgings (7.8%) and scrap iron and steel (2.4%). The non-metallic minerals group increased 0.5% due to an increase in the price of clay and allied products (2.7%).

The chemical products group index declined 1.7% as lower prices were recorded for fertilizer materials (-14.7%), coal tar products (-1.0%) and soap and detergents (-1.0%). Decreases for fresh fruits (-6.4%), tobacco (-4.8%) and sugar and its products (-4.5%) contributed to an 0.7% drop in the vegetable products group.

Over the 12 months from February 1975, the following percentage changes were recorded for the major group indexes:

- Animal products, 12.8%; non-metallic minerals, 10.2%; iron products, 8.9%; wood products, 8.3%; textile products, 5.4%; non-ferrous metals including gold, 0.0%; chemical products, -0.1%; and vegetable products, -8.7%.

For further information, order the February 1976 issue of *Prices and Price Indexes* (61-002, 55¢/\$5.50).

### International Travel

Preliminary statistics for February show that 1.4 million U.S. visitors entered Canada, down 0.2% from February 1975. In contrast, Canadian residents returning from visits to the United States increased 17.1% to 2.0 million.

Visitors entering Canada from countries other than the United States increased 2.6% from a year earlier to 35,900; Canadian residents returning from these countries numbered 144,600, up 17.7% from February 1975.

For further information, order the February 1976 issue of *International Travel — Advance Information* (66-002, 15¢/\$1.50).

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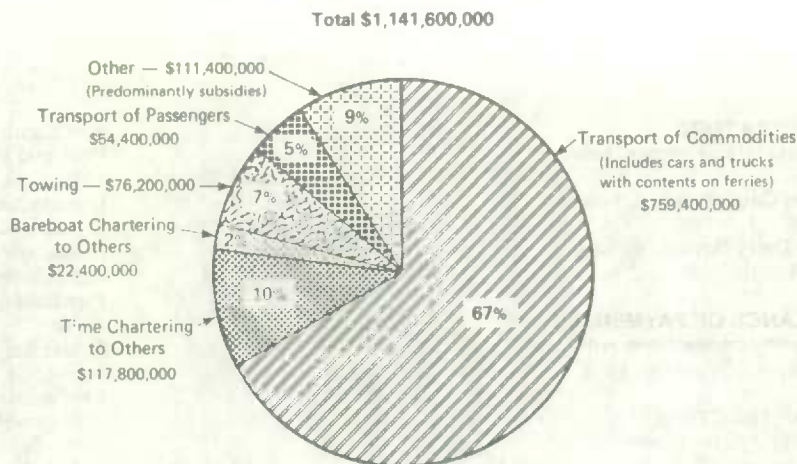
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### Gross Water Transportation Revenue, 1974 by Type of Operation



Source: Water Transportation Data Sheet, 1974

### Water Carrier Operations, 1974

Advance statistics from a special industry profiling survey show that a total of 518 Canadian-domiciled commercial and charter carriers generated gross transport revenues totalling \$1.14 billion in 1974.

Of the major water carrier operations undertaken by reporting establishments, the transport of commodities represented the highest gross revenue generated at \$759.4 million, followed by time charter to others at \$117.8 million, towing at \$76.2 million, the transport of passengers at \$54.4 million and bareboat charter to others at \$22.4 million. The remaining \$111.4 million was primarily from subsidized operations.

The largest number of reporting establishments, 157, specialized in the transport of commodities, followed by 102 specializing in towing, 93 in bareboat charter to others, 91 in the transport of passengers, 68 in time charter to others and 7 in other water transport activities.

For further information, contact the Chief (613-996-9274), Water Transport Section, Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Electric Power Statistics, 1974

Net generation of electricity (total generation less energy used in generating station service) increased 6.3% in 1974 to 280.0 billion kilowatt hours from 263.3 billion kwh. a year earlier.

Electric energy made available in Canada rose by 7.2%, with imports increasing 8.4% to 2.44 billion kwh. while exports decreased 5.5% to 15.40 billion kwh.

Total sales of electricity to ultimate customers (including sales to industrial establishments with generating facilities) increased 6.4% to 214.1 billion kwh. in 1974 from 201.3 billion kwh. in 1973.

For further information, order *Electric Power Statistics, Vol. II, 1974* (57-202, \$1.40), or contact D. Madsen (613-992-4021), Energy and Minerals Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

### Security Transactions with Non-Residents

Portfolio transactions in Canadian and foreign securities gave rise to a record net inflow of \$4,517 million in 1975, surpassing by a wide margin the previous record inflow of \$1,860 million in 1974.

Deliveries of new Canadian issues abroad produced inflows of \$4,919 million, the highest ever. Inflows from trading in outstanding Canadian bonds and stocks also reached a high value of \$307 million. Retirements resulted in an outflow of \$685 million, about \$150 million more than in 1974. Transactions in new and outstanding foreign securities played a minor role, resulting in a net outflow of \$24 million.

Non-residents provided, through transactions in both new and outstanding Canadian issues, a net inflow of \$4,541 million, or approximately 30% of net new issues of long-term Canadian securities during 1975. This was up from \$1,832 million, or 18% of net new issues in 1974, and was due in part to higher interest rates in Canada than abroad, the temporary removal in the latter part of the year of the withholding tax on interest paid on certain types of new issues by Canadian corporations to non-residents, as well as to an increase of almost 50% in the demand for long-term security financing by Canadian borrowers.

For further information, order the December 1975 issue of *Security Transactions with Non-Residents* (67-002, 40¢/\$4).

### Industrial R & D Expenditures, 1974-76

Preliminary data indicate that industry spent \$643 million in 1974 on research and development, an increase of 14% over the previous year. Estimated outlays for 1975 are \$706 million and, for 1976, \$759 million.

For further information, order *Industrial Research and Development Expenditures in Canada, 1974-76* (13-203, \$1.05), or contact Jim Topham (613-995-9692), Science Statistics Section, Education, Science and Culture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.



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