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INFORMAT

Weekly Bulletin

New Motor Vehicle Sales

Retail sales of new motor vehicles reached 114,455 units in March, up 12.6% from a year earlier. Total sales value jumped 25.8% to \$686.3 million.

Sales of passenger cars produced in Canada and the United States rose 10.9% to 70,310 units while those of overseas-manufactured automobiles remained unchanged at 11,930 units.

Commercial vehicle sales in March increased 22.4% from a year earlier to 32,215 units; included were 31,067 produced in Canada and the U.S. (up 24.6%) and 1,148 manufactured overseas (down 17.7%).

For the first three months of 1976, total sales of new motor vehicles reached 267,242 units with an accumulated value of \$1.60 billion. This represents an increase of 0.25% in units and a rise of 14.6% in value compared with sales for January-March 1975.

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007, 30¢/\$3).

International Travel

Canada posted a record travel account deficit of \$660 million in the first quarter of 1976, up from \$529 million in the corresponding period of 1975. Receipts from all countries increased 8.6% to \$189 million while Canadians travelling abroad raised their spending by 20.8% to \$849 million.

In the latest period, U.S. residents spent \$138 million in Canada and \$51 million was spent by visitors from all other countries. Canadian resident spending abroad reached \$542 million in the United States and \$307 million in all other countries.

For further information, order *Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, January-March 1976* (66-001, \$1.75/\$7).

Local Government Employment

Municipal governments in Canada employed a total of 247,199 persons in general government services at the end of December 1975, an increase of 10,307 (4.4%) from the corresponding period in 1974.

Gross payrolls for the fourth quarter of 1975 amounted to \$632.8 million, up 19.4% from \$530.1 million in October-December 1974.

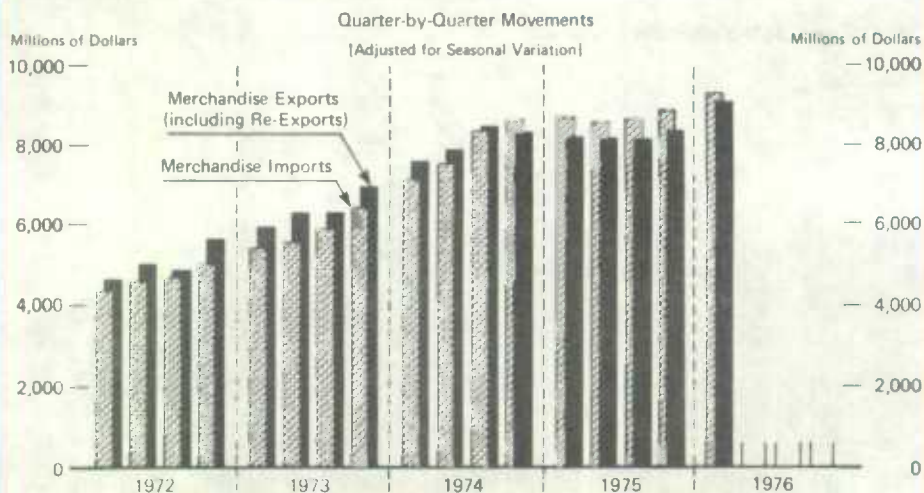
For further information, order *Local Government Employment, Fourth Quarter 1975* (72-009, 70¢/\$2.80).

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME			
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Feb. 218.39p	216.18p	12.5
Labour Income (\$ million)	Jan. 7,528p	7,482p	12.9
Persons with Jobs (million)	Apr.* 9.31	9.26	3.0
Unemployed	Apr.* 769,000	759,000	9.5
INVENTORIES			
Department Store (\$ million)	Feb. 1,539	1,431	19.2
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)	Apr.* 146.8	146.2	8.9
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Feb. 157.9	157.8r	5.2
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Feb. 503.1	502.9r	4.0
CONSTRUCTION			
Building Permits (\$ million)	Feb.* 618.1p	1,130.6	13.3
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	52.6	4.2
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)	Mar. 2,924	8,680	13.0
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Mar. 3,245	9,118	10.2
PRODUCTION			
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Mar. 162.0	435.6	34.2
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Apr.* 1,178	4,589	-7.3
SALES			
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb. 348.8	744.9	16.6
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Feb. 7,297p	14,276	10.7
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Mar.* 686.3	1,601.7	14.6
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.

Canadian Merchandise Exports and Imports



The Labour Force

Canada's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate climbed to 7.4% in April from 6.9% in March.

Last month the unemployment rate for men 25 years of age and over increased to 4.4% from 3.8% in March while for women 25 and over it increased to 7.1% from 6.1%. For persons aged 15 to 24, the unemployment rate dipped to 12.7% from 12.8%.

Between March and April, the seasonally-adjusted participation rate — percentage of the population 15 and over included in the labour force — declined to 61.4% from 61.6%.

On an actual basis, the number of persons employed increased to 9.31 million in April from 9.26 million in March and was up from 9.04 million in April 1975.

The actual unemployment total was 769,000 or 7.6% of the 10.08 million included in the labour force last month. By province, unemployment rates were: Newfoundland, 16.3%; Prince Edward Island, 13.4%; New Brunswick, 13.2%; Nova Scotia, 10.3%; British Columbia, 9.9%; Quebec, 9.0%; Ontario, 6.4%; Manitoba, 4.6%; Saskatchewan, 4.4%; and Alberta, 4.1%.

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

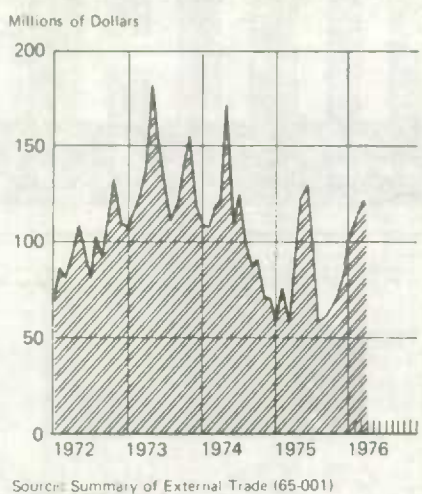
Department Store Sales in Ottawa-Hull

Department stores in Ottawa-Hull metropolitan area reported sales totalling \$5.49 million for the week ending May 1, an increase of 11.1% from the corresponding week in 1975. Sales were up 31.2% in Hull and suburbs, 8.9% in Ottawa and suburbs and 7.7% in Ottawa (city).

Ottawa-Hull area department store sales for the year to date totalled \$74.51 million, up 12.2% from January 1 — May 1, 1975. Sales rose 17.8% in Hull and suburbs, 12.8% in Ottawa (city) and 11.5% in Ottawa and suburbs.

For further information, contact the Merchandising and Services Division (613-996-9304), Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

Canadian Exports of Lumber



Telephone Industry Statistics

Canadian telephone systems reported net operating revenue of \$78.0 million in February, an increase of 31.8% from February 1975.

Gross operating revenues of the 13 major telephone companies rose 23.7% to \$257.8 million in the latest month; operating expenses advanced 20.5% to \$179.8 million.

Construction expenditures of these firms at \$129.6 million in February showed an increase of 4.0% from a year earlier.

For further information, order *Communications Service Bulletin* (56-001, \$1.40 per year), Vol. 6, No. 10, *Monthly Telephone Statistics*, February 1976.

Asbestos

Canadian producers' shipments of asbestos increased to 162,345 short tons in March from 96,285 short tons a year earlier.

Cumulative shipments for the first three months of 1976 at 411,720 short tons were up 29.2% from January-March 1975.

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

Farm Cash Receipts

Farmers' cash receipts from farming operations in all provinces except Newfoundland totalled \$2.94 billion in the January to March period of 1976, down 3.0% from \$3.03 billion in the first three months of 1975.

These estimates include: cash receipts from the sale of farm products; Canadian Wheat Board participation payments on previous years' grain crops; cash advances on farm-stored grains in Western Canada; and deficiency payments made by the Agricultural Stabilization Board. No deduction was made for the cost incurred by farmers in the production of the commodities sold.

Total payments made to farmers in the first three months of 1976, by province and with year-earlier totals in brackets:

- Saskatchewan, \$972.8 million (\$1.18 billion); Alberta, \$624.7 million (\$631.1 million); Ontario, \$624.1 million (\$546.6 million); Quebec, \$308.6 million (\$242.1 million); Manitoba, \$232.1 million (\$287.5 million); British Columbia, \$84.5 million (\$86.0 million); Prince Edward Island, \$33.2 million (\$15.6 million); New Brunswick, \$30.6 million (\$19.2 million); and Nova Scotia, \$30.2 million (\$24.7 million).

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *Farm Cash Receipts* (21-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact E.S. Boyko (613-994-9876), Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0L7.

Electric Power Statistics

Net generation of electricity increased 6.8% in March to 26.6 billion kilowatt hours from 24.9 billion kwh. a year earlier.

Hydro generation increased 3.9% in the latest month; thermal production rose 22.8%.

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *Electric Power Statistics* (57-001, 30¢/\$3).

Security Transactions with Non-Residents

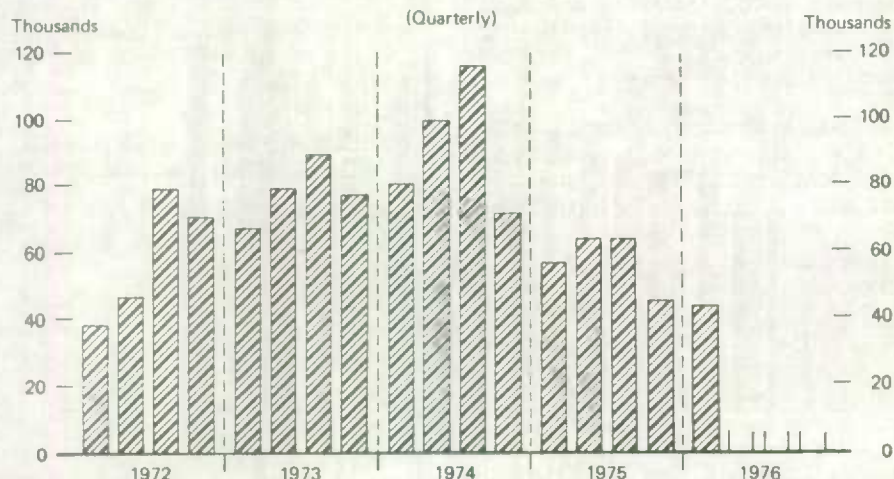
Transactions in outstanding Canadian and foreign securities resulted in a net capital inflow of \$93 million in January compared with a \$2 million outflow in the previous month and a net outflow of \$48 million in January 1975. Gross transactions with non-residents increased in value by 75% from December and were associated with increased stock market activity in both Canada and the United States and the relative attractiveness of Canadian bond yields.

Trading in all classes of Canadian securities gave rise to a net inflow of \$110 million in January. As in previous months, net sales of bonds and debentures accounted for the bulk of the monthly inflow.

Net purchases of foreign securities by Canadian residents resulted in a net outflow of \$17 million; transactions with residents of the U.S. in equity issues accounted for most of the outflow.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Security Transactions with Non-Residents* (67-002, 40¢/\$4).

Full-Time Job Vacancies, Canada



Building Permits

Building permits taken out in Canada in February totalled \$618.1 million, up 26.1% from \$490.3 million a year earlier.

Higher totals were recorded in the latest month for residential permits at \$354.3 million (\$223.6 million a year earlier), institutional and governmental permits at \$70.8 million (\$68.4 million) and industrial permits at \$57.2 million (\$34.6 million). The value of commercial building permits dropped to \$135.8 million from \$163.7 million.

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

- Ontario, \$210.0 million (\$253.6 million); Quebec, \$121.4 million (\$59.8 million); Alberta, \$116.8 million (\$42.9 million); British Columbia, \$81.0 million (\$58.1 million); Manitoba, \$36.2 million (\$7.2 million); Saskatchewan, \$27.1 million (\$11.8 million); Nova Scotia, \$12.0 million (\$18.1 million); New Brunswick, \$9.7 million (\$15.4 million); Newfoundland, \$2.6 million (\$5.6 million); and Prince Edward Island, \$1.1 million (\$17.5 million).

For the first two months of 1976, building permits taken out in Canada reached \$1.13 billion, up 13.3% from \$997.5 million in January-February 1975.

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

Reconciliation of Canada-United States Merchandise Trade Balance

The U.S.-Canada Trade Statistics Committee has reconciled the published figures for Canada-U.S. bilateral merchandise trade for the first three quarters of 1975 and has established that Canada was in deficit by (U.S.) \$1.10 billion.

Canadian trade statistics had indicated a deficit of \$1.56 billion for the latest period while the U.S. Bureau of the Census had reported that Canada was in surplus by \$184 million. These figures follow the pattern found by the committee in previous reconciliation studies in that both sets of official trade figures overstate their imports and understate their exports by comparison with the reconciled figures.

For further information, contact J.B. Salley (613-996-6247), External Trade Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

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National Income and Expenditure Accounts

A complete record of estimates and a comprehensive description of definitions, concepts, sources and methods are provided in three volumes published by Statistics Canada. Volume 1 incorporates the results of a major historical revision from 1926 to 1974; Volume 2 covers quarterly estimates from 1947 to 1974; Volume 3 describes conceptual and statistical changes introduced in the historical revision and updates and expands on the concepts and methodology described in the last major reference document released in 1958.

- Volume 1. The Annual Estimates, 1926-1974 (13-531, \$5.25).
- Volume 2. The Quarterly Estimates, 1947-1974 (13-533, \$3.50).
- Volume 3. A Guide to the National Income and Expenditure Accounts (13-549-E, \$6.75).

These publications may be obtained by writing to Publications Distribution, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Mineral Production

Canadian production of primary metals in March, and 1976 to date, with comparable 1975 figures in brackets:

- Gold, 143,374 troy ounces (127,337) — 425,784 troy ounces (390,023);
- Silver, 3,808,526 troy ounces (3,031,562) — 10,402,169 troy ounces (9,287,549);
- Copper, 65,704 short tons (57,033) — 197,374 short tons (180,374);
- Nickel, 22,954 short tons (25,991) — 66,410 short tons (75,793);
- Refined lead, 18,892 short tons (16,895) — 56,108 short tons (53,551);
- Refined zinc, 40,324 short tons (42,835) — 121,973 short tons (140,446).

For further information, order the March 1976 issues of: *Gold Production* (26-004, 15¢/\$1.50); *Silver, Lead and Zinc Production* (26-008, 15¢/\$1.50); and *Copper and Nickel Production* (26-003, 15¢/\$1.50); or contact Art Symons (613-992-0491), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Associations' Financial Statistics, 1974

In 1974 there were 820 professional associations and 1,057 industrial and trade associations in Canada with reported total revenue of \$255.9 million and expenditure of \$247.4 million.

There were as well 919 establishments classified as better business bureaus, boards of trade, chambers of commerce and jaycees reporting revenue of \$21.1 million and expenditure of \$20.4 million.

For further information, order *Selected Financial Statistics of Associations, 1974* (61-515, 70¢), or contact P. Tong (613-996-9301), Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V4.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

(1971=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada advanced 0.4% to 146.8 in April from 146.2 in March, marking the third consecutive monthly rise of less than 0.5%.

Higher charges for shelter and for household operation items as well as price increases stemming from various provincial budgets largely contributed to this latest rise. The food index declined for the fifth consecutive month, decreasing 0.4%, while the index for all-items excluding food advanced 0.7%.

The April decline in the food index again resulted from lower meat prices, with beef and pork products both decreasing 2.6% and poultry down 3.2%. Soft drinks for home consumption also declined notably in price. These decreases were partly offset by higher prices for fresh produce and increased charges for restaurant meals.

Higher home ownership charges as well as increased electricity rates in many urban centres were large contributors to the 0.7% advance in the index for all-items excluding food. The provincial budgets recently brought down in British Columbia, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan accounted for a further one-quarter of this rise, with higher cigarette prices being the largest single contributing factor. Increases in dental care fees, plane fares and automobile repair charges were also registered.

Between April 1975 and April 1976, the All-Items Consumer Price Index advanced 8.9%.

During this period, the following component index increases were recorded:

- Transportation, 12.3%; housing, 11.5%; health and personal care, 9.5%; tobacco and alcohol, 7.2%; recreation, education and reading, 6.8%; food, 5.8%; and clothing, 5.7%.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the all-items index rose 0.5% between March and April. The current annual rate of change in the CPI, based on the seasonally-adjusted movement since three months earlier was 5.0%, down from the 5.7% rate recorded the previous month.

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *Consumer Price Movements* (62-001, 30¢/\$3).

THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Consumer Credit, March

Department Store Sales by Regions, March

Employment, Earnings and Hours, March

Housing Starts and Completions, March

Real Domestic Product, March

Retail Trade, March

Summary of Foreign Trade, April



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Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, April 1976	32-012	30¢/\$3	Manufacturers of Major Appliances (Electric and Non-electric)	43-204-p	
			Manufacturers of Miscellaneous Electrical Products	43-210-p	
			Manufacturers of Pigments and Dry Colours	46-219-p-1	\$4.90 series
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