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INFORMAT

Weekly Bulletin

Industrial Corporations' Financial Statistics

Canadian industrial corporations recorded after-tax profits of \$2.00 billion in the first quarter of 1976, an increase of \$52 million (2.7%) from the corresponding period in 1975. Net income declined 9.7% for mining corporations but rose 4.4% for manufacturing industries and 8.8% for other industries.

Industrial corporations' sales at \$53.09 billion in the first quarter of 1976 showed an increase of \$6.36 billion (13.6%) from January-March 1975. Sales were up 13.2% for mining industries, 13.6% for manufacturing industries and 13.7% for other industries.

For further information, order *Industrial Corporations' Financial Statistics (Preliminary Data), First Quarter 1976 (61-003, no charge to regular subscribers)*.

Department Store Sales by Regions

Department store sales rose to \$458.6 million in March, up 19.9% 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 March 1975 in brackets:

- Ontario, \$163.1 million (17.2%); Quebec, \$83.9 million (10.1%); British Columbia, \$79.0 million (27.2%); Alberta, \$66.8 million (36.8%); Manitoba, \$26.9 million (18.0%); Atlantic Provinces, \$25.7 million (12.4%); and Saskatchewan, \$13.2 million (25.7%).

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

Labour Income

Total labour income for February was estimated at \$7.67 billion, up 14.7% from February 1975. Wages and salaries rose 15.6% in the service-producing industries and 12.9% in the goods-producing industries.

Adjusted for seasonal variations, the February estimate of \$7.87 billion showed an increase of 1.0% from January. Wages and salaries in the goods-producing industries advanced 1.8% while those in the service-producing industries increased 0.6%.

For further information, order the February 1976 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.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Mar.* 221.88p	219.62p	13.4
Labour Income (\$ million)	Feb.* 7,665p	7,574p	14.7
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)	Mar.* 16,007p	15,730r	5.0
Wholesale (\$ million)	Feb. 6,469	6,236	4.2

ORDERS

Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Mar.* 8,125p	7,269r	18.7
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Mar.* 9,601p	9,668r	-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.)	Mar.* 26.6	79.2	5.0
Natural Gas Production (billion cu. ft.)	Sept.* 260.1	2,536.6	0.6
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

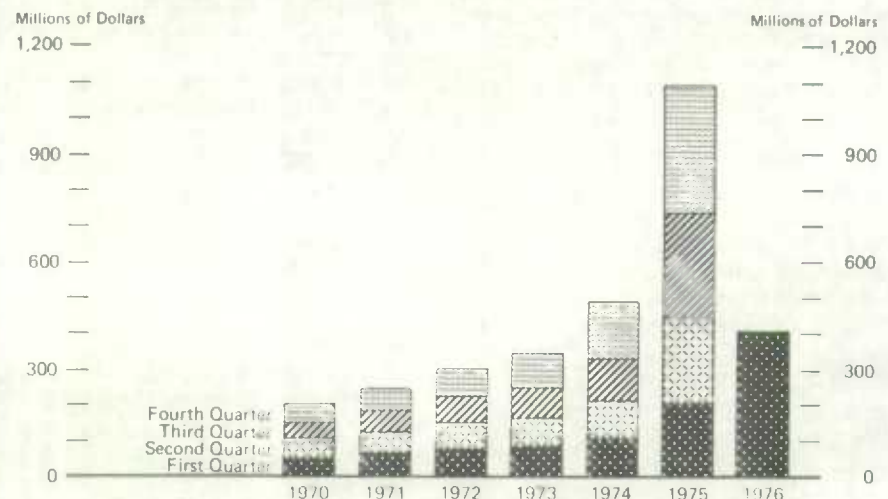
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Mar. 162.0	435.6	34.2
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Apr. 1,178	4,589	-7.3

SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Feb. 348.8	744.9	16.6
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Mar.* 8,192p	22,469	13.5
New Motor Vehicle Sales (\$ million)	Mar. 686.3	1,601.7	14.6
Retail Sales (\$ million)	Mar.* 4,313	11,859	14.7
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Feb. 3,596	7,060	13.3

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

Canadian Exports of Natural Gas to the United States



Source: Summary of External Trade (65-001)

Consumer Credit

Consumer credit outstanding on the books of selected credit holders reporting monthly reached \$18.93 billion at the end of March, an increase of 15.7% from a year earlier.

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

- Chartered banks' personal loans, \$13.59 billion (22.2%);
- Sales finance and consumer companies'
 - small loans, \$238 million (-14.7%);
 - large loans, \$1.50 billion (0.5%);
 - retail instalment sales paper, \$1.11 billion (-1.2%);
- Life insurance companies' policy loans, \$1.16 billion (6.0%);
- Department stores and furniture, television, radio and household appliance stores, \$1.27 billion (4.9%);
- Quebec savings banks' personal loans, \$61 million (32.6%).

For further information, order the March 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*.

Farm Implement Sales

Sales of farm implements and equipment for January to March 1976 were valued at \$178.6 million (dealers' cost), up 55.2% from \$115.1 million in the first three months of 1975.

Sales of repair parts for farm equipment rose 3.8% to \$31.2 million in the latest period.

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

Science and Technology Expenditures

Federal government departments expect to spend \$1.29 billion for activities in the natural sciences and technology in 1976-77 and an additional \$434 million in the human sciences. In the 1975-76 fiscal year, the allocation was \$1.17 billion for the natural sciences and technology and \$357 million for human sciences.

For further information, contact Lorraine Lynch (613-995-9692), *Science Statistics Section, Education, Science and Culture Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

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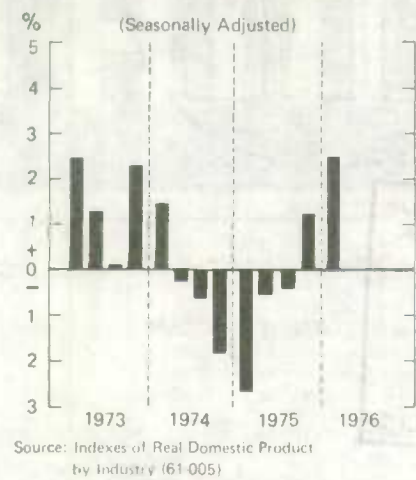
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Index of Industrial Production

Quarter-to-Quarter Percentage Change



Index of Industrial Production

(1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of industrial production increased 0.8% to 117.9 in March from the upwardly-revised level of 117.0 in February.

Manufacturing output rose 1.2% in the latest month; non-durables manufacturing climbed 2.4% while durables manufacturing edged up 0.1%. Utilities' output increased 1.4% but mining production fell 2.4%.

During the first quarter of 1976, the index of industrial production registered an increase of 2.5%. Increases were recorded in manufacturing (2.6%), mining (1.9%) and electric power, gas and water utilities (3.0%).

For further information, order the March 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*.

Restaurant Statistics

Restaurants in Canada had total estimated receipts of \$176.2 million in March, an increase of 12.0% from a year earlier. Sales were up in all provinces.

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

- Ontario, \$65.5 million (10.5%); Quebec, \$58.3 million (11.9%); British Columbia, \$16.8 million (14.4%); Alberta, \$14.7 million (18.9%); Manitoba, \$7.3 million (11.4%); Saskatchewan, \$4.6 million (9.6%); Nova Scotia, \$3.5 million (8.7%); New Brunswick, \$3.2 million (11.8%); Newfoundland, \$1.9 million (6.9%); and Prince Edward Island, \$386,000 (15.9%).

Cumulatively, restaurant receipts for the first three months of 1976 totalled an estimated \$487.7 million, up 12.1% from January-March 1975.

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

Employment, Earnings and Hours

Average weekly earnings in Canadian industry at \$221.88 in March were up 13.4% from \$195.60 a year earlier.

First estimates show that (unadjusted, average weekly earnings (by province) were highest in British Columbia (\$252.40), followed by Alberta (\$231.94), Ontario (\$222.52), Newfoundland (\$217.02), Quebec (\$216.15), Saskatchewan (\$205.82), Manitoba (\$202.49), New Brunswick (\$198.93), Nova Scotia (\$186.76) and Prince Edward Island (\$168.96).

Average weekly earnings in March (by industry division) were as follows: construction, \$326.55; mining, \$310.45; transportation, communication and other utilities, \$253.66; manufacturing, \$234.04; finance, insurance and real estate, \$210.06; trade, \$172.40; and service, \$156.88. (N.B. Data for forestry was not available).

Compared with March 1975, average hourly earnings were up 18.0% in construction, 15.3% in mining and 12.8% in manufacturing.

For further information, order the March 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 March were estimated at \$7.61 billion, up 0.8% from \$7.55 billion (revised) in February. New orders for non-durable goods increased 2.1% to \$4.16 billion while those for durable goods declined 0.7% to \$3.45 billion.

The backlog of unfilled orders in all manufacturing industries in March, seasonally-adjusted, was estimated at \$9.51 billion, down 1.2% from the previous month.

Total inventory owned by manufacturers, seasonally adjusted, was 1.4% higher at \$15.84 billion.

The seasonally-adjusted ratio of total inventory owned — to shipments remained at 2.05:1 in March, unchanged from February, while the finished products — to shipments ratio increased to 0.70:1 from 0.69:1.

Manufacturers' shipments in March, seasonally adjusted, were estimated at \$7.72 billion, an increase of 1.3% from February.

Not adjusted for seasonal variation, manufacturers' shipments in March at an estimated at \$8.19 billion were up 18.7% from a year earlier. Cumulative shipments for the first three months of 1976 totalled \$22.47 billion, up 13.5% from January-March 1975.

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *Inventories, Shipments and Orders in Manufacturing Industries* (31-001, 55¢/\$5.50), or contact H.D. Wightman (613-996-7008), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6*.

Retail Trade

Seasonally-adjusted March retail sales increased 3.3% from February to a level of \$4.65 billion.

Total retail trade without seasonal adjustment reached \$4.31 billion, up 17.1% from a year earlier. All provinces reported increased sales over March 1975 with the largest advance in Alberta (26.7%). Sales were up 16.6% in Winnipeg, 13.9% in Toronto, 11.5% in Vancouver and 10.3% in Montreal.

Year-to-year gains were registered in 26 of the 28 trade groups with the largest increases recorded by service stations (29.0%) and grocery, confectionery and sundries stores (28.7%).

Revised data for February show retail sales for the month at \$3.67 billion, up 12.4% from February 1975.

For further information, order the March 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.

Railway Operating Statistics

Canada's six major railways reported combined net income of \$12.3 million in March compared with the deficit of \$14.9 million posted in March 1975. Operating revenues climbed 29.6% to \$266.5 million while operating expenses rose 15.3% to \$254.2 million.

Revenue freight ton-miles increased 3.9% in the latest month to 10.59 billion; revenue passenger-miles — the total distance travelled by railway passengers — showed a 17.7% decline to 116.9 million.

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *Railway Operating Statistics* (52-003, 30¢/\$3), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9276), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Radio Air-Time Sales

Gross national AM and FM radio air-time sales totalled \$4.9 million in February, down 0.8% from a year earlier. Agency and other commissions left net national sales at \$4.2 million.

Net local air-time sales were reported at \$10.4 million in the latest month, an increase of 7.7% from February 1975.

For further information, order the *Communications Service Bulletin* (56-001, \$1.40 per year), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9276), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

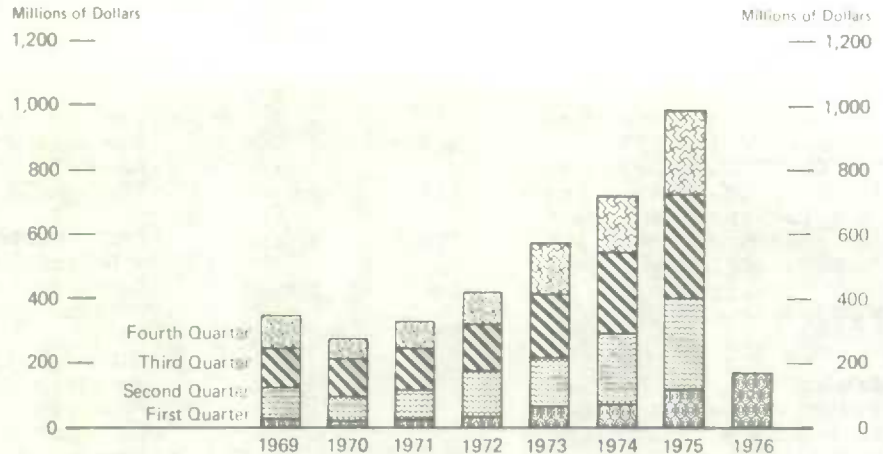
Domestic Mobile Homes

Shipments of domestic mobile homes increased to 3,488 single units in the first quarter of 1976 from 2,782 in the first three months of 1975.

Shipments of double-wide units rose to 879 in the latest period from 431.

For further information, order *Fabricated Metal Products Service Bulletin* (41-009, \$3 per year), or contact J.S. More (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Farm Implement and Equipment Sales*



* Valued at dealers' cost and not including repair parts

Source: Farm Implement and Equipment Sales (63-009)

Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities

Between March and April, consumer price indexes advanced in all 14 regional cities with increases ranging from 0.1% in St. John's, Ottawa and Calgary to 1.4% in Vancouver.

The main contributors to these increases included higher shelter charges as well as price increases resulting from recently-implemented provincial budgetary measures; higher cigarette prices had the largest impact among these measures. Increases were also recorded for some provincial automobile registration fees, for dental care charges, automobile repair rates and plane fares. Food at home prices generally declined, largely as a result of lower meat prices.

Between April 1975 and April 1976, consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities with increases recorded as follows: Vancouver, 11.9%; Regina, 10.0%; Winnipeg, 9.7%; Thunder Bay, 9.7%; Halifax, 9.7%; Calgary, 9.7%; Saskatoon, 9.6%; Edmonton, 9.4%; Saint John, 9.1%; St. John's, 8.8%; Ottawa, 8.5%; Toronto, 8.5%; Quebec City, 7.9%; and Montreal, 7.9%.

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

Oil Pipe Line Transport

Canadian oil pipe lines received 2.47 million barrels per day of crude oil, condensate, pentanes plus and refined petroleum products in March, a decrease of 4.7% from a year earlier.

Receipts of domestic petroleum and products dropped 6.8% to 1.98 million B/D in the latest month while imports rose 4.5% to 492,000 B/D.

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *Oil Pipe Line Transport* (55-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact G. Kitchen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Major Appliances

Sales of freezers and electric stoves were down in March, but Canadian manufacturers' domestic sales of other major appliances ran well above year-earlier levels.

Major appliance sales recorded by these manufacturers in the latest month, with percentage changes from March 1975 in brackets:

- Refrigerators, 41,195 (11.3%); home and farm freezers, 32,432 (-17.1%);
- Stoves and ranges (electric), 29,987 (-8.5%);
- Automatic washing machines, 31,147 (68.4%); electric and gas clothes dryers, 26,033 (48.6%);
- Television sets, 42,464 (4.8%).

Manufacturers' sales in March of 34,772 Canadian-made colour television sets represented an increase of 6.6% from a year earlier; black-and-white set sales decreased 3.0% to 7,692 units.

For further information, order the March 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 Sets* (43-004, 30¢/\$3); or contact J.S. More (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

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