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# INFORMAT

## Weekly Bulletin

### Department Store Sales and Stocks

Department store sales reached \$438.8 million in March, an increase of 14.7% from \$382.6 million in March 1975.

Sales rose in 33 of the 40 departments in the latest month; the largest gains were recorded by plumbing, heating and building materials (49.1%) and hardware, paints, wallpaper, etc. (43.3%).

All provinces reported increased sales over March 1975 with a high of 28.2% for Prince Edward Island. Increases for metropolitan areas included: Winnipeg, 14.3%; Vancouver, 13.4%; Toronto, 10.2%; and Montreal, 3.3%.

Inventories held in March (at selling price) were valued at \$1.56 billion, up 18.1% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the March 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.

### Operations of Transcontinental and Regional Air Carriers

Canada's seven major scheduled airlines showed a combined net loss of \$20.3 million in 1975 compared with the loss of \$2.7 million posted in 1974.

Total operating revenues rose 15.9% to \$1.54 billion in the latest year; operating expenses climbed 17.6% to \$1.49 billion.

Passenger traffic — in terms of passenger-miles for all services — totalled 17,628.0 million during 1975, a 5.3% increase over the 16,741.5 million recorded in 1974. Goods ton-miles for all services rose 5.1% to 507.5 million in 1975.

For further information, order *Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin*, Vol. 8, No. 22 (51-004, \$4.20 per year).

### Aggregate Productivity Measures, 1946-74

Output per man-hour for all commercial industries decreased by 0.5% in 1974 — the first decline in labour productivity since 1957.

Unit labour cost rose 12.5% in 1974, reflecting a 16.7% increase in labour compensation and a 3.7% increase in output.

For further information, order *Aggregate Productivity Measures, 1946-1974* (14-201, \$1.05).

### LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

#### EMPLOYMENT INCOME

	Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Mar. 221.88p	219.62p	13.4
Non-Farm (\$ 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)	Mar.* 1,558	1,539	18.1
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Mar. 16,007p	15,730r	5.0
Wholesale (\$ million)	Mar.* 6,777	6,469	6.8

#### 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)	Mar.* 945.0p	2,106.2	29.6
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb. 11,615	24,065	98.8

#### ENERGY

Coal Production (thousand tons)	Feb.* 2,490	5,008	15.8
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)	Jan.* 52.2	52.2	1.6

#### FOREIGN TRADE

Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Apr.* 3,043	11,755	14.1
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Apr.* 3,155	12,273	10.1

#### PRODUCTION

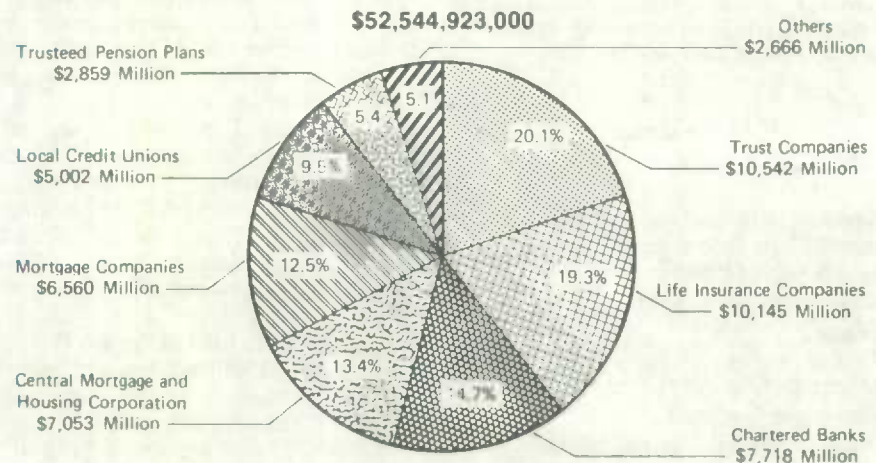
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Mar. 162.0	435.6	34.2
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	Apr. 1,178	4,589	-7.3

#### SALES

Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Mar.* 438.8	1,183.7	15.9
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)	Mar.* 4,338	11,398	15.4

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

### Estimated Mortgages Outstanding by Selected Financial Institutions (Fourth Quarter 1975)



Source: Financial Institutions, Financial Statistics (61-006)



### Railway Carloadings

Canada's railways carried a total of 21.6 million tons of revenue freight in April, up 0.5% from a year earlier. Rail shipments received from United States connections (included above) rose 5.5% to 2.1 million tons.

On a commodity basis, significant increases were noted in loadings of potash (up 22.1%) and iron ore (up 20.0%). Logs registered a 49.0% tonnage decrease in the latest month and wheat and other grains were off 41.9%.

Cumulatively, rail freight traffic in the first four months of 1976 aggregated 79.5 million tons, an increase of 0.2% from January-April 1975. Notably higher in the latest period were movements of coal, copper-nickel ores and concentrates and iron ore; declines were recorded for sulphur, pulpwood, logs, newsprint paper, manufactured iron and steel products and wheat.

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, 30¢/\$3).

### Refined Petroleum Products

Canadian refineries produced 52.24 million barrels of refined petroleum products in January, up 1.6% from a year earlier.

Net sales of refined petroleum products at 55.57 million barrels in the latest month showed an increase of 5.8% from January 1975.

For further information, order the January 1976 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, 40¢/\$4), or contact G.R. Kitchen (613-992-4021), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6*.

### Coal and Coke Statistics

Production of coal in Canada increased 20.5% in February to 2.49 million tons from 2.07 million tons in February 1975. Landed imports declined to 12,048 tons from 63,385 tons.

Industrial consumers used 1.99 million tons of coal in the latest month (up 56,699 tons from a year earlier) and 457,388 tons of coke (down 6,294 tons).

For further information, order the February 1976 issue of *Coal and Coke Statistics* (45-002, 40¢/\$4), or contact David Madsen (613-992-4021), *Energy and Minerals Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

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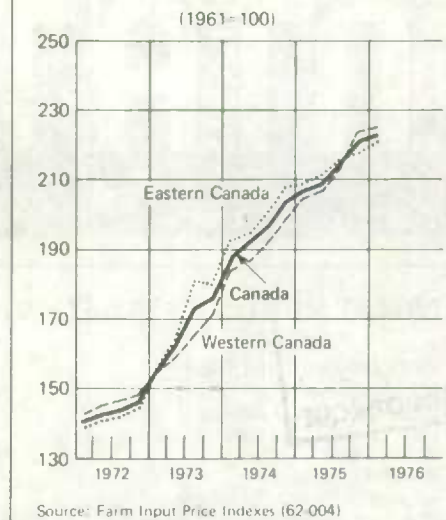
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### Farm Input Price Indexes



### Farm Input Price Index (1961=100)

The Farm Input Price Index for Canada rose 0.8% in the first quarter of 1976, moving to 222.6 from the revised fourth quarter 1975 level of 220.9. On a regional basis, the western index increased 0.3% while the eastern index advanced 1.2%.

Higher prices were recorded for mortgage credit, machinery, petroleum products, repairs, building replacement and hired farm labour. These increases were somewhat offset by lower prices for seed, small tools and supplies, feed and fertilizer.

Over the 12 months from March 1975, the Canada index showed an increase of 6.1%. During this period, production costs rose 5.2% for farmers in Eastern Canada and 7.1% for western farmers.

For further information, order *Farm Input Price Indexes, First Quarter 1976* (62-004, 35¢/\$1.40).

### The Wheat Review

Total exports of wheat from the four traditional major exporters during the August 1975-February 1976 period amounted to 1,294.9 million bushels, up 17% from the year-earlier level. Canadian wheat exports rose to 263.8 million bushels from 219.2 million bushels.

Total supplies of wheat remaining in Canada, the United States, Australia and Argentina at March 1, 1976 for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 1,881.2 million bushels, an increase of 26% from 1,493.3 million bushels on hand at the same date in 1975.

Supplies were held as follows, in millions of bushels and with last year's comparable figures in brackets: United States, 866.7 (626.2); Canada, 481.8 (463.5); Australia, 363.1 (312.5); and Argentina, 169.6 (91.1).

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *The Wheat Review* (22-005, 55¢/\$5.50).

### Real Domestic Product

(1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product rose 0.6% to 120.0 in March from the upwardly-revised level of 119.3 in February.

Output of goods-producing industries advanced 0.9% with significant increases in manufacturing, utilities, forestry and construction. Within manufacturing, pulp and paper mills recorded the largest gain as more mills resumed operations following lengthy strikes. Increases were also shown by manufacturers of tobacco products, chemical products and motor vehicle parts and accessories. In utilities, both electric power and gas distribution registered strong gains. Forestry operations increased 17.6%, due mainly to higher export and domestic demand. Increases in both residential and non-residential building activity accounted for an 0.8% rise in construction.

After two months of virtually no growth, service-producing industries advanced 0.3% in March; increases were recorded in communications, retail and wholesale trade, and community, business and personal services.

In the first quarter of 1976, real domestic product grew by 1.7%.

Output of goods-producing industries rose for the third consecutive quarter, the most significant gains occurred in manufacturing (2.6%), mining (1.9%), utilities (3.0%), agriculture (0.2%), forestry (1.4.8%), fishing and trapping (21.3%) and construction (4.1%). In non-durables manufacturing (up 3.6%), pulp and paper mills recorded the first quarterly increase since the second quarter of 1974. Settlements were reached in most of the labour disputes affecting the industry, accounting for a 27% production gain in the quarter. Significant increases were also recorded by manufacturers of food and beverage products and chemicals and chemical products. In durables manufacturing (up 1.6%), increases were shown by manufacturers of transportation equipment, wood products, furniture and fixtures, metal products and electrical products.

The service-producing industries grew 1.0% in the first quarter with increases in all components except public administration and defence. Transportation, storage and communication output increased 3.0%, mostly due to strike recovery in the post office and increased air and railway transport. Trade was up 1.5%, reflecting a 4.7% rise in wholesale trade that was partly offset by an 0.5% decline in retail trade.

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*.



### Building Permits

Building permits taken out in Canada in March totalled \$945.0 million, up 50.4% from \$628.1 million in March 1975.

Higher totals were recorded in the latest month for residential permits at \$595.6 million (\$360.2 million a year earlier), commercial permits at \$208.1 million (\$120.8 million) and industrial permits at \$64.3 million (\$46.5 million). The value of institutional and government building permits dropped to \$77.0 million from \$100.6 million.

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

- Ontario, \$358.7 million (\$259.1 million); Quebec, \$246.6 million (\$152.5 million); Alberta, \$159.0 million (\$72.5 million); British Columbia, \$77.1 million (\$77.6 million); Manitoba, \$36.8 million (\$17.4 million); Saskatchewan, \$35.9 million (\$17.7 million); Nova Scotia, \$15.2 million (\$21.3 million); New Brunswick, \$11.0 million (\$5.5 million); Prince Edward Island, \$2.5 million (\$1.7 million); and Newfoundland, \$1.9 million (\$2.8 million).

For the first three months of 1976, building permits taken out in Canada reached \$2.11 billion, up 29.6% from \$1.63 billion in January-March 1975.

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

### Household Goods

#### Moving and Storage, 1974

Gross operating revenues of \$153.2 million for 1974 were reported by 568 household goods moving firms in Canada. In 1973 gross operating revenues of \$141.6 million were reported by 535 firms in this industry.

For further information, contact the Chief (613-996-9276), Surface Transport Section, Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Local Government Finance, 1974 and 1975

Local governments in Canada had estimated 1975 revenues of \$13.8 billion, up 13.5% over 1974. Expenditures rose 15.8% and exceeded \$15.1 billion.

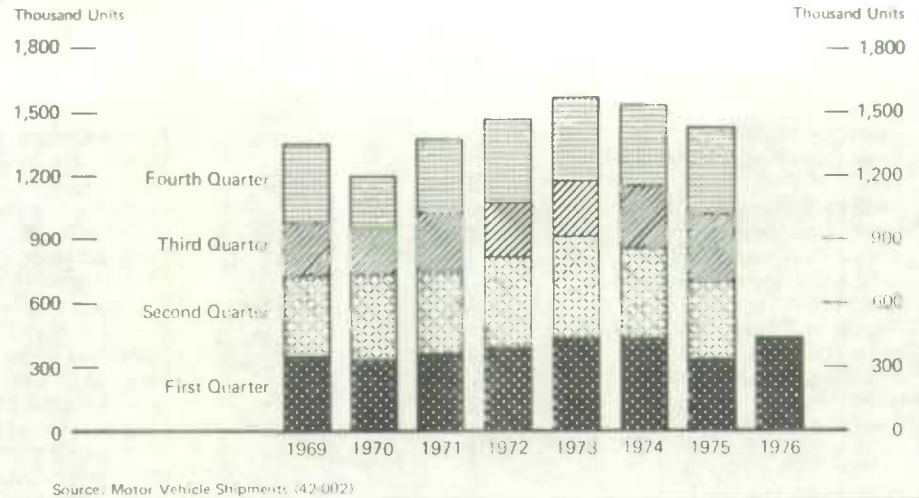
Pending publication of *Local Government Finance, Preliminary 1974 and Estimates 1975* (68-203, \$1.40), copies of the principal revenue and expenditure tables appearing in the publication are available upon request from G.A. Marr (613-995-0713), Chief, Local Government Section, Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Federal Government Finance, 1974-75

Canada's federal government posted a surplus of \$1.30 billion for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1975. Gross general revenue receipts amounted to \$32.19 billion while gross general expenditure totalled \$30.89 billion.

The publication *Federal Government Finance, 1974-75* (68-211, \$1.05), will be released at a later date. For further information, contact G.M. McIlveen (613-995-0669), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

### Canadian Production of Motor Vehicles



### Statement of Canadian Trade

Canadian exports on a balance-of-payments basis, after seasonal adjustment, rose 3.5% in April to \$3.10 billion while imports increased marginally to \$3.04 billion. Canada's merchandise trade balance thus swung to a surplus of \$62 million from the revised deficit of \$27 million in March. For the three-month period from February to April, the trade balance was in surplus by \$6 million, an improvement over the \$237 million deficit for the three-month period ended in January.

Seasonally-adjusted exports, on a customs basis, gained 5% over March to a level of \$3.05 billion in April. The value of shipments to the United States increased 7.5% to \$2.12 billion, but exports to overseas countries remained virtually unchanged at \$930 million.

Newsprint exports increased some \$40 million, following the earlier settlement of strikes in the industry. Exports of passenger vehicles rose about \$25 million, but the combined fall in shipments of trucks and vehicle parts was more substantial. A recovery by some \$20 million in April restored the value of shipments of metallic ores and concentrates to the February level.

Following a 7.5% decline in March, seasonally-adjusted imports (on a customs basis) rose 3.3% in April to \$3.11 billion. Moderate declines in imports from the United States, the United Kingdom and other EEC countries were outweighed by a sharp rise in imports from other overseas countries.

Imports of crude oil climbed by \$140 million in April. However, deliveries of motor vehicles and automotive parts dropped by about \$100 million. Imports of coal and industrial machinery were also higher, but those of agricultural machinery, other equipment, apparel and household goods were moderately lower in the latest month.

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

### Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in March were estimated at \$4.34 billion, up 19.1% from March 1975.

In the consumer goods trades, the tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks component showed a gain of 48.6%. In the industrial goods trades, sales of other construction materials and supplies, including lumber rose 44.8% from a year earlier.

Wholesale inventories were valued at \$6.78 billion in the latest month, up 6.8% from March 1975.

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

### Telephone Industry Statistics

Canadian telephone systems reported net operating revenue of \$76.7 million in March, an increase of 18.8% from March 1975.

Gross operating revenues of the 13 major telephone companies rose 24.1% to \$272.2 million in the latest month, operating expenses advanced 26.3% to \$195.5 million.

Construction expenditures of these firms at \$143.1 million in March showed an increase of 2.9% from a year earlier.

For further information, order *Communications Service Bulletin* (56-001, \$1.40 per year), Vol. 6, No. 12, *Monthly Telephone Statistics*, March 1976.

### THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Consumer Price Index, May  
Department Store Sales by Regions, April

Estimates of Labour Income, March  
Gross National Product, First Quarter 1976

Motor Vehicle Production, April  
New Motor Vehicle Sales, April

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