

Statistics
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INFORMAT

Weekly Bulletin

The Labour Force

Canada's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate edged down to 7.1% in May from 7.4% in April.

Last month the unemployment rate for men 25 years of age and over decreased to 4.1% from 4.4% in April while for women 25 and over it went down to 6.8% from 7.1%. For persons aged 15 to 24, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 12.7%.

Between April and May, the seasonally-adjusted participation rate — percentage of the population 15 and over included in the labour force — declined to 61.0% from 61.4%.

On an actual basis, the number of persons employed increased to 9.58 million in May from 9.31 million in April and was up from 9.40 million in May 1975.

The actual unemployment total was 708,000 or 6.9% of the 10.29 million included in the labour force last month. By province, unemployment rates were: Newfoundland, 13.7%; New Brunswick, 12.2%; Prince Edward Island, 9.9%; Nova Scotia, 9.5%; British Columbia, 9.1%; Quebec, 8.0%; Ontario, 5.8%; Alberta, 4.3%; Manitoba, 3.8%; and Saskatchewan, 3.3%.

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

New Motor Vehicle Sales

Retail sales of new motor vehicles reached 135,129 units in April, up 10.1% from a year earlier. Total sales value jumped 21.4% to \$795.8 million.

Sales of passenger cars produced in Canada and the United States rose 12.5% to 86,632 units while those of overseas-manufactured automobiles increased 1.0% to 14,788 units.

Commercial vehicle sales in April advanced 8.1% from a year earlier to 33,709 units; included were 32,487 produced in Canada and the U.S. (up 10.3%) and 1,222 manufactured overseas (down 28.3%).

For the first four months of 1976, sales of new motor vehicles reached 402,371 units with an accumulated value of \$2.40 billion. This represents an increase of 3.3% in units and a rise of 16.7% in value compared with sales for January-April 1975.

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007, 30¢/\$3), or contact Michael Kwilecki (613-996-9304), Retail Trade Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

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)	May* 9.58	9.31	1.8
Unemployed	May* 708,000	769,000	2.9

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)	Apr.* 159.4	158.9r	5.3
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Mar. 505.0	503.9r	5.7

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

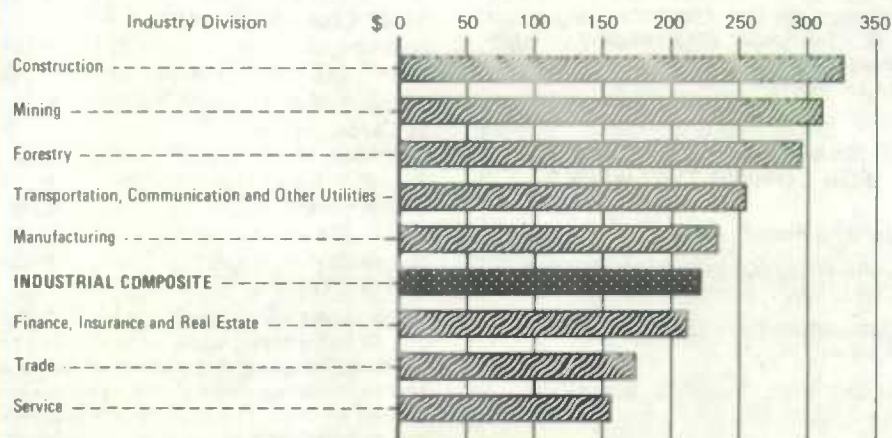
SALES

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)	Apr.* 795.8	2,397.5	16.7
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.

Average Weekly Earnings in Canadian Industry

(March 1976*)



Source: Employment, Earnings and Hours (72-002)

*First Estimates

Farm Cash Receipts

Farmers' cash receipts from farming operations in all provinces except Newfoundland totalled \$3.53 billion in the January-April period of 1976, down 3.2% from \$3.65 billion in the first four 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 four months of 1976, by province and with year-earlier totals in brackets:

- Saskatchewan, \$1,046.1 million (\$1,288.9 million); Ontario, \$832.4 million (\$760.9 million); Alberta, \$724.2 million (\$737.3 million); Quebec, \$416.2 million (\$330.8 million); Manitoba, \$275.8 million (\$338.5 million); British Columbia, \$111.2 million (\$111.2 million); Prince Edward Island, \$42.9 million (\$20.5 million); Nova Scotia, \$41.5 million (\$34.0 million); and New Brunswick, \$41.2 million (\$26.2 million).

For further information, order the January-April 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.

International Travel

Preliminary statistics for April show that 2.0 million United States visitors entered Canada, up 13.9% from April 1975. Canadian resident travellers returning from visits to the U.S. increased by 25.4% to 2.9 million.

Visitors entering Canada from countries other than the United States increased by 23.5% to 77,000; Canadian travellers returning from these countries numbered 145,000, up 7.4% from April 1975.

(N.B. The large increases in the latest month were due in part to Easter falling in March in 1975 and in April in 1976).

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *International Travel—Advance Information* (66-002, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact M. W. Valiquette (613-995-0847), International Travel Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Building Permits, April

Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities, May

Department Store Sales and Stocks, April

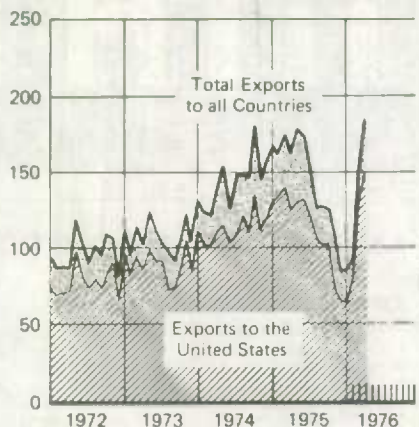
Employment, Earnings and Hours, April

Gross National Product, First Quarter 1976

Real Domestic Product, April

Exports of Newsprint Paper

Millions of Dollars



Source: Exports by Commodities (65-004)

New Publications

The Justice Statistics Division has just released a study of homicide in Canada since 1961. More than a year in preparation, *Homicide in Canada: A Statistical Synopsis* (85-505E, \$2.80) presents a detailed factual picture of murder and manslaughter in this country and how our institutions respond to such occurrences.

The study was undertaken to address such issues as what kinds of people commit homicide, under what circumstances, upon what kinds of victims; it also reveals how the criminal justice system deals with persons suspected of committing homicide. In addition to statistical information — much of it not previously published in this form — the study also provides a review of the historical development of homicide law and a summary of current Canadian law as the context within which the statistics should be viewed.

For further information, contact Paul Reed (613-995-0746), Assistant Director (Research), Justice Statistics Division, R.H. Coats Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa.

Retail Chain Stores, 1974

Chain organizations in Canada had record sales of \$13,672.0 million in 1974, an increase of 20.6% over the 1973 level of \$11,338.2 million.

Results of the annual survey of chain organizations indicate that the number of such organizations throughout the country rose to 874 and the number of chain outlets in operation increased by 1,140 to a record total of 19,695.

The report *Retail Chain Stores, 1974* (63-210, \$1.05) will be published later this year. However, detailed information on sales by chain organizations—including data by various kinds of business for the provinces and selected cities—are now available and may be obtained by contacting I.E. Altman (613-996-9304), Retail Trade Section, Merchandising and Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

(1971=100)

The Consumer Price Index for Canada advanced 0.8% to 148.0 in May from 146.8 in April.

The food index, after declining for five successive months, rose 1.5% to account for almost half of the over-all CPI increase; higher shelter charges and increased prices for tobacco and alcoholic products each contributed an additional one-sixth to this advance and were major factors in the 0.6% rise in the index for all items excluding food.

The May increase in the food index largely reflected a 12.4% hike in beef prices. Also higher were prices of fresh produce, butter and fluid milk. Partially offsetting these increases were lower prices for poultry and for soft drinks for home consumption.

Higher home ownership charges, together with increased prices for tobacco and alcoholic products — mainly resulting from various provincial budgetary measures — accounted for most of the 0.6% rise in the index for all items excluding food.

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

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

- Transportation, 12.1%; housing, 11.6%; health and personal care, 9.0%; tobacco and alcohol, 7.7%; food, 6.2%; recreation, education and reading, 6.0%, and clothing, 5.9%.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the all-items index rose 0.7% between April and May. The current annual rate of change in the CPI, based on the seasonally-adjusted movement since three months earlier was 7.0%, up from the 5.0% rate recorded the previous month.

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

Non-Residential Building Construction Input Price Index

(1961=100)

The non-residential building construction input price index for Canada rose to 271.0 in April, an increase of 1.0% from March and up 11.8% from a year earlier.

The materials component of the total index advanced 8.1% over the 12 months from April 1975; labour costs increased 14.6%.

Prices of lumber and lumber products jumped 15.3% during this period; smaller increases were noted for: concrete products (14.6%); steel and metal work (5.9%); plumbing, heating and other equipment (5.0%); and other materials (9.4%). Electrical equipment prices declined 0.3%.

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *Construction Price Statistics, Monthly Bulletin* (62-007, \$4 per year), or contact L.J. Seary (613-994-5807), Prices Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V5.

Department Store Sales by Regions

Department store sales rose to \$523.0 million in April, up 21.3% 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 April 1975 in brackets:

- Ontario, \$192.0 million (19.0%); Quebec, \$106.4 million (36.2%); British Columbia, \$80.6 million (12.2%); Alberta, \$65.5 million (22.9%); Atlantic Provinces, \$31.9 million (18.8%); Manitoba, \$31.1 million (14.1%); and Saskatchewan, \$15.5 million (24.9%).

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

Farm Implement Sales

Sales of farm implements and equipment for January to April 1976 were valued at \$311.5 million (dealers' cost), up 54.9% from \$201.1 million in the first four months of 1975.

Sales of repair parts for farm equipment rose 7.9% to \$43.2 million in the latest period.

For further information, order the April 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.

For-Hire Trucking Survey, 1974

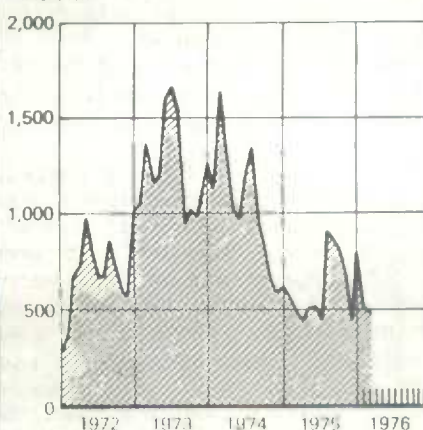
Preliminary figures show that Canadian-domiciled for-hire motor carriers having gross annual intercity operating revenues of \$100,000 and over earned revenues of \$1.5 billion in 1974, an increase of 17.6% from 1973.

In 1974, these carriers transported 100.2 million tons of cargo (down 1.1% from the previous year) and generated 21.8 billion ton-miles (up 0.6%).

For further information, contact the Motor Carrier Unit (613-996-9276), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Canadian Net Exports of Electric Power

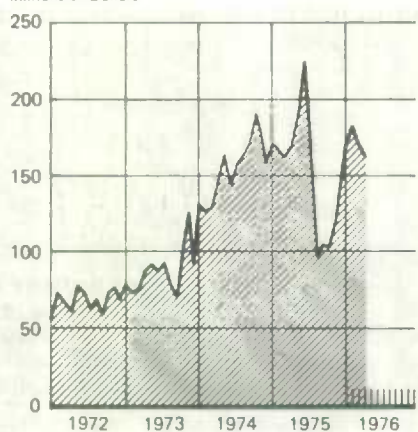
Millions Kwh



Source: Electric Power Statistics (57-001)

Canadian Domestic Exports of Wood Pulp

Millions of Dollars



Source: Exports by Commodities (65-004)

The Wheat Review

Total exports of wheat from the four traditional major exporters during the August 1975-March 1976 period amounted to 1,440.5 million bushels, up 17% from the year-earlier level. Canadian wheat exports rose to 281.8 million bushels from 230.2 million bushels.

Total supplies of wheat remaining in Canada, the United States, Australia and Argentina at April 1, 1976 for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 1,740.1 million bushels, an increase of 27% from the 1,372.7 million bushels on hand at the same date in 1975.

Supplies were held as follows, in millions of bushels and with year's comparable figures in brackets: United States, 777.8 (549.4); Canada, 463.8 (452.6); Australia, 347.8 (284.3); and Argentina, 150.7 (86.4).

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

Railway Freight Traffic, 1975

Railways in Canada hauled 248.9 million tons of revenue freight in 1975, a decline of 8.1% from 270.9 million tons in 1974. The total for the latest year included 227.7 million tons loaded in Canada (down 6.7% from 1974) and 21.2 million tons received from United States connections (down 23.4%).

With the exception of a 12.9% gain in loadings in The Territories, traffic losses were recorded in all regions of Canada in 1975.

On a commodity basis, live animals recorded the only gain in total freight handled in 1975, increasing 9.6% to 240,429 tons. Haulings of crude materials — which accounted for 52% of all traffic — were down 5.8% to 129.4 million tons. Fabricated materials were off 15.3% to 64.0 million tons.

For further information, order *Railway Freight Traffic, 1975* (52-205, \$2.80), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9276), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Motor Vehicle Production

Canadian production of motor vehicles reached 157,386 units in April, up 15.1% from 136,760 a year earlier.

Passenger car production increased to 109,563 units in the latest month from 102,225 and production of commercial vehicles rose to 47,823 units from 34,535 in April 1975.

For the first four months of 1976, production of motor vehicles totalled 593,035 units, an increase of 28.5% from the January-April 1975 figure of 461,411.

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *Motor Vehicle Shipments* (42-002, 15¢/\$1.50), or contact J.S. More (613-992-0388), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)

The industry selling price index for total manufacturing rose to 159.4 in April, an increase of 0.3% from March and up 5.3% from a year earlier.

More than 60% of the April rise was attributable to advances in the indexes for primary metals, metal fabricating, chemicals and paper products.

Higher prices for steel and several non-ferrous metals contributed to an 0.8% increase in the primary metals index. Metal fabricating prices moved up 0.5%, mainly reflecting increases for metal stamping and pressing. The chemicals group also rose 0.5% with higher prices for industrial chemicals, paints, varnishes and toilet preparations. Increased prices for paper-board and corrugated boxes contributed to an 0.4% rise in the paper and allied products group.

Over the 12 months from April 1975, the largest price increases were recorded for the following group indexes:

- Petroleum and coal products industries, 12.5%; wood industries, 12.0%; non-metallic mineral products industries, 11.8%; leather industries, 10.0%; textile industries, 9.1%; metal fabricating industries, 6.7%; machinery industries, 6.1%; and furniture and fixtures industries, 6.1%.

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *Prices and Price Indexes* (62-002, 55¢/\$5.50).

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Production of Poultry and Eggs, 1975	32-003	30¢/\$3			
Stocks of Dairy and Frozen Poultry Products, May 1976	23-202	70¢			
Stocks of Frozen Meat Products, May 1976	32-009	30¢/\$3			
Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, May 1, 1976	32-012	30¢/\$3			
The Wheat Review, April 1976	32-010	30¢/\$3			
	22-005	55¢/\$5.50			
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