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# INFOMAT

## Weekly Bulletin

### Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities

Between April and May, consumer price indexes advanced in all 14 regional cities with increases ranging from 0.6% in Halifax to 1.4% in Winnipeg.

The main contributors to these increases were higher food prices — particularly for beef cuts and fresh produce — as well as increased shelter charges for both owned and rented accommodation. Higher prices for tobacco and alcohol products were also registered in some centres as a result of recent provincial budgets. Increases were also recorded in most cities for barbering and hairdressing services and for seasonal recreation equipment.

Between May 1975 and May 1976, consumer price indexes rose in all regional cities with increases recorded as follows: Vancouver, 11.6%; Regina, 10.4%; Winnipeg, 10.3%; Thunder Bay, 10.1%; Calgary, 10.1%; Edmonton, 10.0%; Halifax, 9.8%; Saskatoon, 9.8%; St. John's, 9.1%; Ottawa, 8.8%; Saint John, 8.6%; Toronto, 8.3%; Quebec City, 8.0%; and Montreal, 8.0%.

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

### Aggregate Productivity Measures

Output per man-hour has grown more rapidly in Canada than in the United States during the past 25 years, increasing at a rate of 4.1% per year in Canada and 2.6% per year in the United States. Compensation per man-hour has also grown more rapidly in Canada, at 5.6% per year, compared to 4.9% per year in the United States for the years 1950-1974.

For most of the period the better Canadian labour productivity performance provided more of an offset to the higher growth in labour compensation than for the United States, but this advantage has been diminishing. For the years 1950-1961 the growth in unit labour cost in the United States at 3.2% per year was twice that of Canada. From 1961-1971 the difference narrowed considerably, with unit labour cost increasing at 1.9% per year in Canada and 2.1% in the United States. Since 1971 the growth in unit labour cost has been the same in both countries at 6.4% per year.

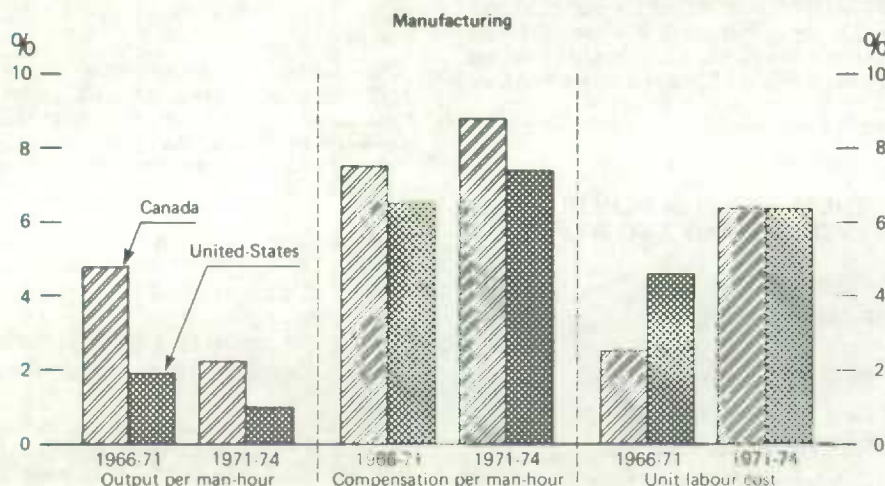
For further information, order *Aggregate Productivity Measures, 1946-1974* (14-201, \$1.05).

### LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

		Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
<b>EMPLOYMENT, INCOME</b>				
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
<b>INVENTORIES</b>				
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
<b>ORDERS</b>				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Mar.	8,125p	7,269r	18.7
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Mar.	9,601p	9,668r	-6.8
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1971=100)	May*	148.0	146.8	8.9
Industry Selling Price Index (1971=100)	Apr.	159.4	158.9r	5.3
Wholesale Price Index (1935-39=100)	Apr.*	509.2	505.2r	5.5
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
Building Permits (\$ million)	Mar.	945.0p	2,183.8	34.3
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Feb.	11,615	24,065	98.8
<b>ENERGY</b>				
Coal Production (thousand tons)	Feb.	2,490	5,008	15.8
Electricity Generation (terawatt hours)	Apr.*	23.6	102.8	4.7
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
<b>FOREIGN TRADE</b>				
Exports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Apr.	3,043	11,755	14.1
Imports — Customs Basis (\$ million)	Apr.	3,155	12,273	10.1
<b>PRODUCTION</b>				
Motor Vehicles (thousand units)	Apr.*	157.4	593.0	28.5
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	May*	1,242	5,952	-4.6
<b>SALES</b>				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Apr.*	523.0	1,706.6	17.4
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)	Apr.*	4,851	16,656	16.2
Wholesale Sales (\$ million)	Mar.	4,338	11,398	15.4

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

### Canada — United States Comparisons, Average Annual Rate of Growth



Source: Aggregate Productivity Measures, 1946-1974 (14-201)



## Retail Trade

Seasonally-adjusted April retail sales increased 1.7% from March to a level of \$4.67 billion.

Total retail trade without seasonal adjustment reached \$4.85 billion, up 21.2% from a year earlier. All provinces reported sales increases over April 1975 with the largest advance in New Brunswick (25.3%). Sales were up 21.6% in Montreal, 20.0% in Winnipeg, 16.2% in Toronto and 10.6% in Vancouver.

Year-to-year gains were registered in all 28 trade groups with the largest increases recorded by grocery, confectionery and sundries stores (33.6%) and service stations (31.1%).

Revised data for March show retail sales for the month at \$4.26 billion, up 15.6% from March 1975.

For further information, order the April 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.

## Provincial Government Employment

Canada's provincial and territorial governments (excluding British Columbia) employed a total of 330,820 persons (full-time and part-time) in general government services during the last pay period of March 1976.

Gross payrolls for the first quarter of 1976 amounted to \$981.3 million.

For further information, order *Provincial Government Employment, First Quarter 1976* (72-007, \$1.05/\$4.20), or contact T.D. Harris (613-995-0676), Public Finance Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Oil Pipe Line Transport

Canadian oil pipe lines received 2.29 million barrels per day of crude oil, condensate, pentanes plus and refined petroleum products in April, a decrease of 3.4% from a year earlier.

Receipts of domestic petroleum and products fell 3.6% to 1.85 million B/D in the latest month and imports decreased 2.6% to 442,000 B/D.

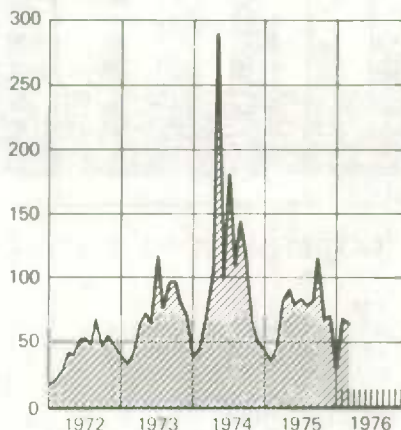
For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *Oil Pipe Line Transport* (55-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact G.R. Kitchen (613-992-4021), Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6.

### THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Building Permits, April  
Employment, Earnings and Hours, April  
Estimates of Labour Income, March  
New Motor Vehicle Sales, May  
Real Domestic Product, April  
Summary of Foreign Trade, May

## Industrial Building Permits, Canada

Millions of Dollars



Source: Building Permits (64-001)

## University Graduates in Canada

There were 630,600 persons resident in Canada in September 1973 who had a university degree two years earlier. Almost 150,000 (23%) were born outside Canada. Immigrants from the United Kingdom and the United States accounted for 43% of all foreign-born graduates; the next largest group, 7%, came from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

For further information regarding the results of the September 1973 sample survey of persons who reported at least one university degree in the 1971 Census, order *Education, Science and Culture Division Service Bulletin, Vol. 5, No. 5, Foreign-Born University Graduates in Canada* (81-001, no charge).

## Index of Industrial Production (1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of industrial production increased 0.8% to 119.1 in April from 118.2 in March.

Manufacturing output rose 0.9% in the latest month; durables manufacturing increased 1.1% and non-durables manufacturing was up 0.6%. Mining production advanced 0.8% and output of electric power, gas and water utilities increased 0.4%.

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *Indexes of Real Domestic Product by Industry* (61-005, 40¢/\$4), or contact R.W. Collins (613-995-0443), Industry Product Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

## Electric Power Statistics

Net generation of electricity increased 3.5% in April to 23.6 terawatt hours from 22.8 TW.h a year earlier.

Hydro generation rose 8.8% in the latest month; thermal production decreased 14.1%.

For further information, order the April 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.

## Restaurant Statistics

Restaurants in Canada had total estimated receipts of \$168.8 million in April, an increase of 13.0% from a year earlier. Sales were up in all provinces.

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

- Ontario, \$60.9 million (14.2%); Quebec, \$51.4 million (11.3%); Alberta, \$16.9 million (15.9%); British Columbia, \$15.7 million (13.2%); Manitoba, \$8.0 million (12.2%); Saskatchewan, \$5.3 million (12.1%); New Brunswick, \$4.9 million (12.0%); Nova Scotia, \$3.5 million (10.3%); Newfoundland, \$1.6 million (8.5%); and Prince Edward Island, \$471,000 (16.3%).

Cumulatively, restaurant receipts for the first four months of 1976 totalled an estimated \$656.6 million, up 12.3% from January-April 1975. Chain restaurants accounted for 16.5% of sales in the latest period while independents took the balance.

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

## Mineral Production

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

- Gold, 137,551 troy ounces (138,694) — 563,335 troy ounces (528,717);
- Silver, 3,722,053 troy ounces (2,500,000) — 14,184,982 troy ounces (11,796,606);
- Copper, 63,292 short tons (75,402) — 261,379 short tons (255,776);
- Nickel, 23,521 short tons (25,517) — 92,645 short tons (101,310);
- Refined lead, 17,588 short tons (17,583) — 73,696 short tons (71,134);
- Refined zinc, 46,437 short tons (42,332) — 168,410 short tons (182,778).

For further information, order the April 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.

## Mechanical and Electrical Contracting, 1974

Statistics have been compiled on the value of these phases of construction contracting for 1974 and will be available shortly in two publications. For mechanical contracting, data are included for 4,837 establishments in Canada with gross operating revenues of \$2.23 billion. For electrical contracting, figures cover 3,344 establishments with 1974 gross operating revenues of \$1.11 billion.

For further information, order *The Mechanical Contracting Industry, 1974* (64-204, \$1.40) and *The Electrical Contracting Industry, 1974* (64-205, \$1.05), or contact Ted Hewitt (613-994-9756), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z6.



## Consumer Credit

Consumer credit outstanding on the books of selected credit holders reporting monthly reached \$19.40 billion at the end of April, an increase of 16.5% from a year earlier.

Outstanding balances held by these credit grantors in the latest month, with percentage changes from April 30, 1975:

- Chartered banks' personal loans, \$14.04 billion (23.0%);
- Sales finance and consumer companies'—small loans, \$236 million (-14.2%);—large loans, \$1.50 billion (0.1%);—retail instalment sales paper, \$1.12 billion (-0.4%);
- Life insurance companies' policy loans, \$1.17 billion (6.4%);
- Department stores and furniture, television, radio and household appliance stores, \$1.28 billion (6.4%);
- Quebec savings banks' personal loans, \$63 million (31.3%).

Credit holders reporting quarterly had combined outstanding balances of \$5.11 billion at the end of the first quarter of 1976. Including these reporters, consumer credit outstanding at March 31 totalled \$24.07 billion, up 15.8% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the April 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*.

## Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production

Crude petroleum production for November amounted to 1.57 million barrels per day, down 5.0% from a year earlier.

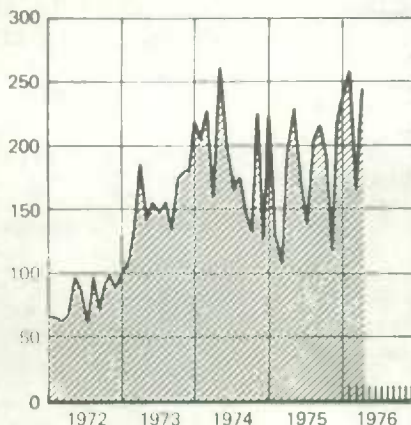
Natural gas production averaged 9.98 billion cubic feet per day in the latest month, an increase of 3.2% from November 1974.

For further information, order the November 1975 issue of *Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, 30¢/\$3), or contact G.R. Kitchen (613-992-4021), *Manufacturing and Primary Industries Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V6*.

## Canadian Exports to Japan

(Seasonally Adjusted)

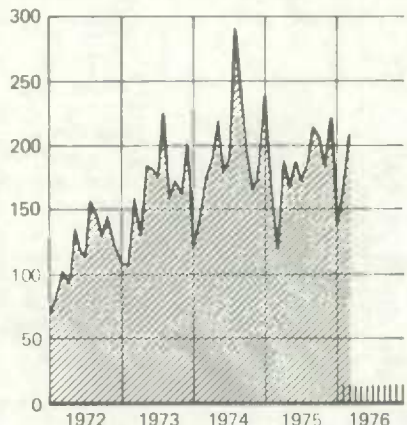
Millions of Dollars



Source: Summary of External Trade (65-001)

## Commercial Building Permits Issued in Canada

Millions of Dollars



Source: Building Permits (64-001)

## Major Appliances

Sales of freezers and television sets were down in April, but Canadian manufacturers' domestic sales of other major appliances ran above year-earlier levels.

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

- Refrigerators, 38,577 (8.9%); home and farm freezers, 34,066 (-18.3%);
- Stoves and ranges (electric), 34,473 (7.9%);
- Automatic washing machines, 25,477 (31.5%); electric and gas clothes dryers, 21,523 (41.0%);
- Television sets, 29,009 (-15.0%).

Manufacturers' sales in April of 23,342 colour television sets represented a decrease of 14.9% from a year earlier; black-and-white set sales dropped 15.5% to 5,667 units.

For further information, order the April 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*.

## Coal Mines, 1974

The value of coal production in Canada increased 68.5% to \$302.8 million (for 23.4 million tons) in 1974 from \$179.7 million (for 22.6 million tons) in 1973.

The 1974 census value of production for coal mines increased 52.7% to \$331.4 million from \$217.0 million in 1973. The number of employees in the industry rose to 8,142 from 7,856 and total salaries and wages paid increased to \$91.6 million from \$75.5 million.

For further information, order *Coal Mines, 1974* (26-206, \$1.05), or contact David Madson (613-992-4021), *Energy and Minerals Section, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6*.

## General Wholesale Index

(1935-39=100)

The general wholesale price index advanced to 509.2 in April, an increase of 0.8% from March and up 5.5% from a year earlier. Seven of the eight major groups included in the total index were higher while one declined.

The non-ferrous metals index rose 1.8% in April due mainly to price increases for copper (7.1%) and silver (2.4%). The iron products group moved up 1.7%, reflecting jumps for scrap iron and steel (13.9%) and tinplate and galvanized sheets (7.7%). The animal products group index advanced 1.4% due to price increases for hides and skins (18.4%), leather (3.8%), livestock (2.2%) and fresh meats (2.1%).

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

- Animal products, 12.5%; non-metallic minerals, 10.7%; textile products, 8.0%; iron products, 8.0%; wood products, 7.6%; non-ferrous metals including gold, 2.8%; chemical products, 0.4%; and vegetable products, -3.6%.

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

## Import and Export

### Price and Volume Indexes

Following a decline in February, both import and export price indexes moved down again in March. The downward trend in the rate of increase of import and export prices, measured by the year-over-year change in the moving average, continued the decline which started at the beginning of 1975 for imports and mid-1974 for export prices. Year-over-year changes are now at the level of 1.7% for imports and 3.5% for exports compared with 31% for imports and 37% for exports at the peak of the 1974 price boom.

Import and export volumes (seasonally adjusted) declined in March. However, on a three-month, moving-average basis, import volume was up 6.0% and export volume stood 7.9% above the March 1975 level.

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

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