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INFORMAT

Weekly Bulletin

Gross National Product(GNP)

The economic recovery gained considerable momentum in the first quarter of 1976 as Gross National Product, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, increased 4.4% to a level of \$176.5 billion; after adjustment for price changes, real GNP grew 2.7%. This was the fourth consecutive quarterly increase in output volume since the recovery began and it left real GNP over 5% higher than at the trough of the recession one year ago.

However, most of the first-quarter growth was due to a massive re-stocking of inventories rather than a strengthening of final demand; in fact, both gross fixed capital formation and personal expenditure on goods declined. As a result, the 0.7% increase in real final domestic demand was well below the growth in real GNP.

The first quarter also saw a deterioration in the external sector as the balance of trade in goods and services fell despite a fairly large rise in exports.

The swing in inventories from a liquidation of almost \$2 billion in the fourth quarter of 1975 to an accumulation of \$2.5 billion in the first three months of 1976 more than compensated for these weaknesses and was responsible for strengthening the recovery after its relatively weak start last year. The fact that the inventory swing dominated the quarter to the extent that it did may be cause for some concern: first, because inventory accumulation is almost certainly not sustainable at anything like the first-quarter rate; and second, because there are some grounds for believing that some of it may have been unintended.

For further information, order *National Income and Expenditure Accounts, First Quarter 1976* (13-001, \$1.05/\$4.20).

Wholesale Trade

Wholesale merchants' sales in April were estimated at \$4.17 billion, up 14.3% from April 1975.

In the consumer goods trades, the tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks component showed a gain of 38.2%. In the industrial goods trades, sales of farm machinery rose 47.5% from a year earlier.

Wholesale inventories were valued at \$6.89 billion in the latest month, up 7.5% from April 1975.

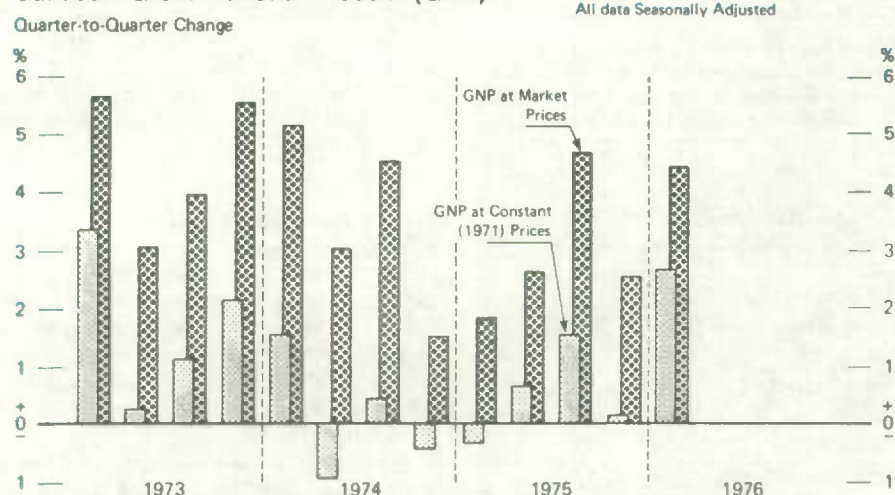
For further information, order the *April 1976 issue of Wholesale Trade* (63-008, 15¢/\$1.50).

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

		Latest Month	Previous Month	Change From Year Ago %
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME				
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	Mar.	221.88p	219.62p	13.4
Labour Income (\$ million)	Mar.*	8,191p	8,089p	15.3
Persons with Jobs (million)	May	9.58	9.31	1.8
Unemployed	May	708,000	769,000	2.9
INVENTORIES				
Department Store (\$ million)	Apr.*	2,008	1,558	31.7
Manufacturers' Owned (\$ million)	Apr.*	16,198p	16,273r	4.4
Wholesale (\$ million)	Apr.*	6,888	6,777	7.5
ORDERS				
Manufacturers' New Orders (\$ million)	Apr.*	8,401p	8,403r	19.1
Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders (\$ million)	Apr.*	9,952p	9,871r	-6.1
PRICES				
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
CONSTRUCTION				
Building Permits (\$ million)	Mar.	945.0p	2,183.8	34.3
Housing Starts — Urban Centres (units)	Mar.*	12,734	36,799	100.4
ENERGY				
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)	Apr.*	47.5	202.5	-2.3
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)	Apr.	157.4	593.0	28.5
Steel (ingots — thousand tons)	May	1,242	5,952	-4.6
SALES				
Department Store Sales (\$ million)	Apr.	523.0	1,706.6	17.4
Manufacturers' Shipments (\$ million)	Apr.*	8,319p	31,579	14.5
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)	Apr*	4,171	15,569	15.1

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

Canada's Gross National Product (GNP)



Source: National Income and Expenditure Accounts (13-001)

Real Domestic Product

(1971=100)

The seasonally-adjusted index of real domestic product rose 0.5% in April to 120.7 from 120.1 in March.

Most of the latest month's advance originated in the goods-producing industries where output increased almost 1%. Production in these industries has risen for six consecutive months now, and in April was at a level 7% higher than that of October 1975.

The major contributors to the April advance in goods-producing industries were forestry, pulp and paper manufacturers, motor vehicle manufacturers, agriculture and the non-metallic mineral products manufacturing industries. The gains in forestry and pulp and paper could be linked to the end of strikes in pulp and paper mills. In motor vehicle manufacturing, production levels in April were up 18% from a year earlier. The increase in mining was attributable to increases in iron ore mining and the first rise in crude petroleum and natural gas output since September 1975.

For the service-producing industries, there was a small advance in April. Retail trade was up 0.9% with department stores and food stores showing the largest gains. Over the October 1975 to April 1976 period, output of service-producing industries moved up 2%. Trade and transportation, storage and communication contributed the major increases while public administration and defence decreased more than 1%.

For further information, order the April 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.

Motor Carrier Passenger and Urban Transit, 1974

Preliminary results from the passenger bus and urban transit survey show that 150 inter-city and urban transit companies in Canada had gross operating revenues of \$485 million in 1974.

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

THESE REPORTS SCHEDULED FOR COMING TWO WEEKS

Building Permits, April
Department Store Sales by Regions, May
Employment, Earnings and Hours, April
Motor Vehicle Production, May
New Motor Vehicle Sales, May
Summary of Foreign Trade, May

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Canada 1976

This year's edition of Statistics Canada's annual showpiece publication has just been published and is maintaining its traditional reputation as one of the country's most popular periodicals.

The 365-page Handbook pictures recent economic, social and cultural developments in Canada in giving its complete but concise portrait of the nation in review.

Superbly-illustrated, *Canada 1976* contains some 300 photographs — 250 in full colour. Work from many of the country's leading photographers are included along with articles from recognized specialists in a number of different fields.

A total of 272,000 copies are being printed in English and French for distribution in Canada and abroad. *Canada 1976* (catalogue 11-203-E) is priced at \$2.75 per copy (\$3.30 outside Canada) and is available from selected bookstores as well as Canadian Government Bookstores and Publications Distribution, Statistics Canada.

Housing Starts

New residential construction activity remained at a high level in March with housing starts in Canadian centres of 10,000 population and over more than doubling to 12,734 units from 6,261 a year earlier.

Housing starts recorded in the latest month, by province and with March 1975 figures in brackets: Ontario, 5,010 (2,260); Quebec, 2,840 (1,453); British Columbia, 1,860 (1,168); Alberta, 1,755 (813); Manitoba, 508 (78); Saskatchewan, 414 (122); New Brunswick, 195 (64); Nova Scotia, 138 (230); Newfoundland, 12 (73); and Prince Edward Island, 2 (—).

For the first three months of 1976, housing starts in urban centres totalled 36,799 units, up 100.4% from 18,367 in January-March 1975.

For further information, order the March 1976 issue of *Housing Starts and Completions* (64-002, 40¢/\$4).

Roads and Bridges, 1974

Statistics on general contractors primarily engaged in road and bridge building have been compiled in a publication scheduled for early release. The report provides financial and operational data on the industry, which included 929 establishments in Canada with total revenues of \$1.8 billion in 1974.

For further information, order *The Highway, Road, Street and Bridge Contracting Industry, 1974* (64-206, \$1.05), or contact G. Beauchamp or Mrs. L. Hunton (613-994-9795), Construction Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0Z6.

Labour Income

Total labour income for March was estimated at \$8.19 billion, up 15.3% from March 1975.

Adjusted for seasonal variations, the March estimate of \$8.33 billion showed an increase of 0.7% from February. Wages and salaries in the goods-producing industries advanced 0.3% while those in the service-producing industries rose 0.8%.

During the first quarter of 1976, seasonally-adjusted labour income increased by 4.5% as compared to the gain of 2.0% recorded in the previous quarter. Two-thirds of this acceleration in the rate of growth was attributable to the cessation of major industrial disputes which severely affected totals in the fourth quarter of 1975; the inclusion of large indexation payments, made to Quebec public sector employees, in the third quarter which further dampened the fourth-quarter advance; and to increased employer contribution—effective the beginning of 1976—to publicly-controlled welfare plans.

For further information, order the March 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.

Radio Air-Time Sales

Gross national AM and FM radio air-time sales totalled \$5.7 million in March, down 5.5% from a year earlier. Agency and other commissions left net national sales at \$4.8 million.

Net local air-time sales were reported at \$12.3 million in the latest month, an increase of 8.2% from March 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.

Refined Petroleum Products

Canadian refineries produced 47.5 million barrels of refined petroleum products in April, down 5.5% from a year earlier.

Net sales of refined petroleum products at 45.4 million barrels in the latest month showed a drop of 5.0% from April 1975.

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, 40¢/\$4).

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Pension Plans in Canada, 1974

In 1973 combined contributions of over \$5 billion were paid into public and private earnings-related programmes made up of the Canada/Quebec Pension Plans, Registered Retirement Savings Plans and private pension plans.

The most comprehensive of these programmes in terms of coverage is the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan; participation is mandatory for all paid workers, whether employee or self-employed, over age 18. Contributions to the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan on behalf of what amounts to virtually the entire labour force totalled \$1.31 billion in 1973. By contrast, over the same period well over \$2.99 billion was paid into private pension plans on behalf of only 40% of the paid workers in the labour force.

At the beginning of 1974, there were in existence some 15,853 occupational pension plans and membership in these plans had reached a record level of 3.42 million persons. Pension plans were in operation in virtually all industrial sectors but the degree of coverage varied from 1.0% of workers in agriculture to 98.0% in public administration.

For further information, order *Pension Plans in Canada, 1974* (74-401, \$2.10).

Report on Job Vacancies

Preliminary estimates for the three months ended May 31 show a decrease in the average number of vacant jobs from the comparable period a year earlier. Vacancies for full-time, part-time and casual jobs decreased to 50,000 from 67,800.

Vacancies for full-time jobs dropped 26% to 44,900. The number of longer-term vacancies—jobs unfilled for more than four weeks—fell 46% to 14,000.

For every 1,000 existing jobs in the latest three-month period, six were vacant, a decrease of three vacancies per thousand jobs from last year. The highest job vacancy rates occurred in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan while the lowest rates were shown in Newfoundland and the Pacific Region.

For further information, contact J.A. Boucek (613-992-2006) or Ms. M. Beaubien (613-996-7148), Labour Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0V1.

Telephone Industry Statistics

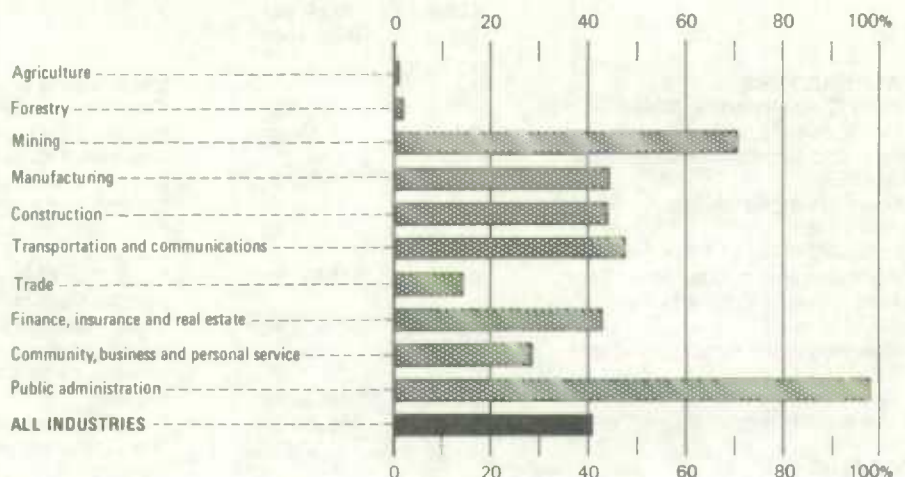
Canadian telephone systems reported net operating revenue of \$85.5 million in April, an increase of 36.2% from April 1975.

Gross operating revenues of the 13 major telephone companies rose 19.5% to \$265.7 million in the latest month; operating expenses advanced 13.0% to \$180.2 million.

Construction expenditures of these firms at \$140.3 million in April showed an increase of 0.5% from a year earlier.

For further information, order *Communications Service Bulletin* (56-001, \$1.40 per year), Vol. 6, No. 14, *Monthly Telephone Statistics*, April 1976.

Percentage of Paid Workers in the Labour Force Covered by Pension Plans, by Industry, 1974



Source: Pension Plans in Canada, 1974 (74-401)

Railway Carloadings

Canadian railways reported loadings of 23.3 million tons of revenue freight in May, up 1.1% from a year earlier. Traffic received from United States connections (included above) rose 11.8% to 2.3 million tons.

On a commodity basis, significant increases were noted in loadings of iron ore (up 23.6% to 5.8 million tons) and wheat (up 12.2% to 1.9 million tons). Traffic losses from May 1975 were recorded for: coal (down 31.2%); lumber (down 19.3%); potash (down 17.9%); sand, gravel and crushed stone (down 16.3%); and other grains (down 12.6%).

Cumulatively, rail freight traffic in the first five months of 1976 aggregated 102.8 million tons, an increase of 0.4% from January-May 1975. Notably higher in the latest period were movements of iron ore, copper ores and concentrates and coal; declines were recorded for pulpwood, logs, newsprint paper, wheat and sand, gravel and crushed stone.

For further information, order the May 1976 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, 30¢/\$3), or contact J.R. Slattery (613-996-9276), Transportation and Communications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Sales Financing

Sales finance companies purchased \$257.9 million of retail finance paper in April, an increase of 14.1% from a year earlier.

The total for the latest month comprised \$76.0 million for passenger cars, \$28.1 million for other consumer goods, \$105.0 million for commercial vehicles and \$48.8 million for other commercial and industrial goods.

Wholesale financing undertaken by these companies in the first quarter of 1976 amounted to \$1.51 billion, up 4.6% from January-March 1975.

For further information, order the April 1976 issue of *Sales Financing* (63-013, 30¢/\$3).

Department Store Sales and Stocks

Department store sales reached \$521.2 million in April, an increase of 20.9% from \$431.0 million in April 1975.

Sales rose in 39 of the 40 departments in the latest month; the largest gains were recorded by men's and boys' footwear (57.8%) and toys and games (39.9%).

All provinces reported increased sales over April 1975 with a high of 36.2% for Quebec. Increases for metropolitan areas included: Montreal, 38.5%; Winnipeg, 14.3%; Toronto, 14.1%; and Vancouver, 2.8%.

Inventories held in April (at selling price) were valued at \$2.01 billion, up 31.7% from a year earlier.

For further information, order the April 1976 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.

The Wheat Review

Total exports of wheat from the four traditional major exporters during the August 1975-April 1976 period amounted to 1,552.0 million bushels, up 11% from the year-earlier level. Canadian wheat exports rose to 314.9 million bushels from 274.3 million bushels.

Total supplies of wheat remaining in Canada, the United States, Australia and Argentina at May 1, 1976 for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 1,594.5 million bushels, an increase of 35% from the 1,184.9 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, 742.9 (469.8); Canada, 434.0 (415.6); Australia, 276.4 (236.0); and Argentina, 141.2 (63.5).

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



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THESE PUBLICATIONS RELEASED JUNE 17 — 23

	Cata- logue	Price per issue/year		Cata- logue	Price per issue/year
AGRICULTURE					
Field Crop Reporting Series — No. 8, June 18, 1976	22-002	\$5.60/ series	Boatbuilding and Repair	42-205-p	
Fruit and Vegetable Production, June 1976	22-003	40¢/\$3	Clay Products Manufacturers (from Imported Clays)	44-216-p	
Grain Milling Statistics, April 1976	32-003	30¢/\$3	Concrete Products Manufacturers	44-205-p-3	
Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, April 1976	62-003	15¢/\$1.50	Copper and Copper Alloy Rolling, Casting and Extruding	41-224-p	
Production of Eggs and Poultry, April 1976	23-003	30¢/\$3	Fabricated Structural Metal Industry	41-207-p	
Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, October-December 1975	21-003	\$1.40/\$5.60	Floor Tile, Linoleum and Coated Fabrics Manufacturers	47-205-p-3	
The Wheat Review, May 1976	22-005	55¢/\$5.50	Glass Products Manufacturers	44-207-p-2	
			Iron Foundries	41-226-p	
			Jewellery and Silverware Industry	47-211-p	
CENSUS					
Population — Introduction to Volume 1 (Part 4), 1971 Census of Canada	92-729	50¢	Manufacturers of Mixed Fertilizers	46-220-p	
			Manufacturers of Soap and Cleaning Compounds	46-214-p	
EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE					
Federal and Provincial Student Aid in Canada, 1971-72	81-236	\$1.05	Metal Door and Window Manufacturers	41-221-p-1	
University and College Libraries in Canada, 1971-72	81-206	\$2.10	Miscellaneous Food Processors	32-224-p	
			Non-commercial Trailer Manufac- turers	42-217-p-2	
EXTERNAL TRADE					
Summary of External Trade, April 1976	65-001	40¢/\$4	Ornamental and Architectural Metal Industry	41-221-p-2	\$4.90 for series
			Wool Yarn and Cloth Mills	34-209-p	
HEALTH					
General Mortality, 1950-1972	84-531	\$2.10	SERVICE BULLETINS		
Health Manpower — Registered Nurses, 1974	83-220	\$2.10	Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded tapes — Vol. 5, No. 4, Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada, April 1976		
				47-004	/ \$1.40
INFORMATION					
Canada 1976	11-203E	\$2.75	Rubber and Plastics Products Industries — Vol. 5, No. 2, Production and Shipments of Plastic Bottles, Quarter Ended March 31, 1976		
				47-002	/ \$1.40
MANUFACTURING AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES					
Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers, 1974	36-205	70¢	MERCHANDISING AND SERVICES		
Domestic Washing Machines and Clothes Dryers, April 1976	43-002	15¢/\$1.50	Computer Service Industry, 1974		
Fisheries Statistics, Prince Edward Island, 1974	24-203	70¢		63-222	70¢
Fish Freezings and Stocks, February 1976	24-001	40¢/\$4	Department Store Sales and Stocks, March 1976		
Particle Board, April 1976	36-003	15¢/\$1.50		63-002	40¢/\$4
Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, April 1976	26-007	15¢/\$1.50	Merchandising Inventories, March 1976		
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, March 1976	35-002	30¢/\$3		63-014	40¢/\$4
Raw Hides, Skins and Finished Leather, April 1976	33-001	30¢/\$3	PRICES		
Sales of Paints, Varnishes and Lacquers, April 1976	46-001	15¢/\$1.50	Construction Price Statistics, Monthly Bulletin, May 1976		
Selected Meat and Meat Preparations, March 1976	32-020	15¢/\$1.50		62-007	40¢/\$4
Silver, Lead and Zinc Production, April 1976	26-008	15¢/\$1.50	Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities, May 1976		
				62-009	30¢/\$3
PRELIMINARY BULLETINS					
1974 Census of Manufactures —					
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				52-003	30¢/\$3
			Railway Operating Statistics, March 1976		
				52-003	30¢/\$3
			Urban Transit, April 1976		
				53-003	15¢/\$1.50
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			Aviation Statistics Centre — Vol. 8: No. 27, Aircraft Movement Statistics, April 1976; No. 28, Operations of Transcontinental and Regional Air Carriers, February 1976; No. 29, Operations of Transcontinental and Regional Air Carriers, March 1976		
				51-004	/ \$4.20
			Communications — Vol. 6, No. 14, Monthly Telephone Statistics, April 1976		
				56-001	/ \$1.40